

Diagnosis and Treatment of Vascular Disease

Background of the Invention

Cardiovascular disease is a major health risk throughout the industrialized world.

5 Coronary artery disease (CAD), or atherosclerosis, involves the progressional narrowing of the arteries due to a build-up of atherosclerotic plaque. Myocardial infarction (MI), *e.g.*, heart attack, results when the heart is damaged due to reduced blood flow to the heart caused by the build-up of plaque in the coronary arteries.

Coronary artery disease, the most prevalent of cardiovascular diseases, is the
10 principal cause of heart attack, stroke, and gangrene of the extremities, and thereby the principle cause of death in the United States. Coronary artery disease, or atherosclerosis, is a complex disease involving many cell types and molecular factors (described in, for example, Ross, 1993, *Nature* 362: 801-809). The process, in normal circumstances a protective response to insults to the endothelium and smooth muscle cells (SMCs) of the wall of the
15 artery, consists of the formation of fibrofatty and fibrous lesions or plaques, preceded and accompanied by inflammation. The advanced lesions of atherosclerosis may occlude the artery concerned, and result from an excessive inflammatory-fibroproliferative response to numerous different forms of insult. Injury or dysfunction of the vascular endothelium is a common feature of many conditions that predispose a subject to accelerated development of
20 atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. For example, shear stresses are thought to be responsible for the frequent occurrence of atherosclerotic plaques in regions of the circulatory system where turbulent blood flow occurs, such as branch points and irregular structures.

The first observable event in the formation of an atherosclerotic plaque occurs when
25 blood-borne monocytes adhere to the vascular endothelial layer and transmigrate through to the sub-endothelial space. Adjacent endothelial cells at the same time produce oxidized low density lipoprotein (LDL). These oxidized LDLs are then taken up in large amounts by the monocytes through scavenger receptors expressed on their surfaces. In contrast to the regulated pathway by which native LDL (nLDL) is taken up by nLDL specific receptors, the

scavenger pathway of uptake is not regulated by the monocytes.

These lipid-filled monocytes are called foam cells, and are the major constituent of the fatty streak. Interactions between foam cells and the endothelial and SMCs which surround them lead to a state of chronic local inflammation which can eventually lead to smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration, and the formation of a fibrous plaque.

Such plaques occlude the blood vessel concerned and, thus, restrict the flow of blood, resulting in ischemia. Ischemia is a condition characterized by a lack of oxygen supply in tissues of organs due to inadequate perfusion. Such inadequate perfusion can have a number of natural causes, including atherosclerotic or restenotic lesions, anemia, or stroke. Many medical interventions, such as the interruption of the flow of blood during bypass surgery, for example, also lead to ischemia. In addition to sometimes being caused by diseased cardiovascular tissue, ischemia may sometimes affect cardiovascular tissue, such as in ischemic heart disease. Ischemia may occur in any organ, however, that is suffering a lack of oxygen supply.

One of the most important risk factors for coronary artery disease is a familial history. Although family history subsumes both genetic and shared environmental factors, studies suggest that CAD has a very strong genetic component (Marenberg, *et al.* (1994) *NEJM* 330:1041). Despite the importance of family history as a risk factor for CAD, it's incomplete genetic basis has not been elucidated. Therefore, the identification of genes which are involved in the development of CAD and MI would be beneficial.

It would thus be beneficial to identify polymorphic regions within genes which are associated with a vascular disease or disorder, such as coronary artery disease or myocardial infarction. It would further be desirable to provide prognostic, diagnostic, pharmacogenomic, and therapeutic methods utilizing the identified polymorphic regions.

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Summary of the Invention

The present invention is based, at least in part, on the identification of polymorphic regions within the integrin beta 3 gene (ITGB3), the von Willebrand factor gene (VWF), the endothelin receptor type B gene (EDNRB), the factor 2 gene (F2), the P-selectin (SELP)

gene, and the thrombospondin 1 (THBS1), and thrombospondin 2 (THBS2) genes which are associated with specific diseases or disorders, including vascular diseases or disorders. When used in specific combinations, single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) identified within these polymorphic regions can be used to predict risk of cardiovascular disease, *e.g.*,
5 coronary artery disease (CAD) and myocardial infarction (MI). These SNPs represent potentially vital markers of upstream biology influencing the complex process of atherosclerotic plaque generation and vulnerability.

In one aspect of the invention, four of the SNPs of the present invention, when used in combination, can be used to determine whether a subject is at an increased risk of
10 cardiovascular disease (referred to herein as “combination 1”). Combination 1 comprises two copies of an adenine (“AA”) at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, two copies of a thymidine (“TT”) at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, one copy of a thymidine and one copy of a cytidine (“TC”) at nucleotide residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI
15 12597038 of the EDNRB gene, and one copy of a guanine and one copy of a thymidine (“GT”) at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 of the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof. When this combination is present in a subject, that subject is three times more likely to develop a cardiovascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, than an individual with any other combination of alleles at these loci.

20 In another aspect of the invention, a second combination of six of the SNPs identified herein can be used to determine whether a subject is at an increased risk of developing a cardiovascular disease (referred to herein as “combination 2”). Combination 2 comprises two copies of an adenine (“AA”) at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, two copies of a cytidine (“CC”) at nucleotide residue 10777 of
25 the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, two copies of an adenine (“AA”) at nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, two copies of a thymidine (“TT”) at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, two copies of a thymidine (“TT”) at nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and one copy of a guanine and one

copy of a thymidine ("GT") at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 in the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof. When this combination is present in a subject, that subject is four and a half times more likely to develop a cardiovascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, than individuals with any other combination of alleles at these loci.

5 Thus, the invention relates to polymorphic regions and in particular, SNPs identified as described herein, both singly and, preferably, in combination (*e.g.*, in combination 1 and/or combination 2 as described herein), as well as to the use of these SNPs, and others in these genes, particularly those nearby in linkage disequilibrium with these SNPs, both singly and, preferably, in combination, for diagnosis, prediction of clinical course of therapy and
10 treatment response for vascular disease. The SNPs identified herein may further be used in the development of new treatments for vascular disease based upon comparison of the variant and normal versions of the gene or gene product (*e.g.*, the reference sequence), and development of cell-culture based and animal models for research and treatment of vascular disease. The invention further relates to novel compounds and pharmaceutical compositions
15 for use in the diagnosis and treatment of such disorders. In preferred embodiments, the vascular disease is CAD or MI.

 In one embodiment, the polymorphic regions of the invention are associated with responsiveness to vascular disease or disorder therapies, *e.g.*, clinical courses of therapy, including, but not limited to lifestyle changes, medications, medical devices, such as a
20 defibrillator, a stent, a device used in coronary revascularization, a pacemaker, and any combination thereof, surgical or non-surgical intervention or procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, laser angioplasty, implantation of a stent, coronary bypass grafting, implantation of a defibrillator, implantation of a pacemaker, and any combination thereof. The medical devices described in the methods of the invention can
25 also be used in combination with a modulator of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene expression or ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 polypeptide activity.

 Furthermore, the polymorphic regions of the invention are also useful in the determination of use of further diagnostic protocols, including, but not limited to diagnostic

vascular imaging, genetic analysis, familial health history analysis, lifestyle analysis, exercise stress tests, or any combination thereof.

The polymorphisms of the invention may thus be used, both singly, or, preferably, in combination (*e.g.*, in combination 1 and/or combination 2 as described herein), in prognostic, diagnostic, and therapeutic methods. For example, the polymorphisms of the invention can be used to determine whether a subject has, or is, or is not at risk of developing a disease or disorder associated with a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region, *e.g.*, a disease or disorder associated with aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder.

The invention thus relates to isolated nucleic acid molecules and methods of using these molecules. The nucleic acid molecules of the invention include specific allelic variants which differ from the reference sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 (GI 14589612), SEQ ID NO:3 (GI 4827300), SEQ ID NO:5 (GI 12597038), SEQ ID NO:7 (GI 558069), SEQ ID NO:9 (GI 3790157), SEQ ID NO:11 (GI 12583762), SEQ ID NO:13 (GI 307505), respectively, or a portion thereof. The preferred nucleic acid molecules of the invention comprise ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic regions or portions thereof having the polymorphisms shown in Table 1 (see Example 3), polymorphisms in linkage disequilibrium with the polymorphisms shown in Table 1, and combinations thereof. Nucleic acids of the invention can function as probes or primers, *e.g.*, in methods for determining the allelic identity of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region in a nucleic acid of interest.

The nucleic acids of the invention can also be used, singly, or, preferably, in combination (*e.g.*, in combination 1 and/or combination 2 as described herein), to determine whether a subject is or is not at risk of developing a disease associated with a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region, *e.g.*, a disease or disorder associated with aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder such as CAD or MI. The nucleic acids of the invention can further be used to prepare ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or

THBS2 polypeptides encoded by specific alleles, such as mutant (variant) alleles. Such polypeptides can be used in therapy. Polypeptides encoded by specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles, such as variant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides, can also be used as immunogens and selection
5 agents for preparing, isolating or identifying antibodies that specifically bind ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins encoded by these alleles. Accordingly, such antibodies can be used to detect variant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins.

There are seven preferred polymorphisms of the invention. One polymorphism is a
10 change from an adenine (A) to a guanine (G) in the ITGB3 gene at residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (polymorphism ID No. ITGB3u2). This polymorphism results in a change from a leucine to a proline in the amino acid sequence of the ITGB3 protein (SEQ ID NO:2) at amino acid residue 59. A second polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a guanine (G) in the VWF gene at residue 55386 of the reference sequence
15 GI 4827300 (polymorphism ID No. G391u14). This polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the VWF protein (it is a "silent" variant). A third polymorphism is a change from a cytidine (C) to a thymidine (T) in the EDNRB gene at residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 (polymorphism ID No. G337a4). This polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the EDNRB protein.
20 A fourth polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a guanine (G) in the THBS2 gene at residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (polymorphism ID No. G5755e5). This polymorphism is not present in the coding sequence of the THBS2 gene, and therefore does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the THBS2 protein (it is a "non-coding" variant in the 3' region of the gene). A fifth polymorphism is a change from a
25 cytidine (C) to a thymidine (T) in the F2 gene at residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 (polymorphism ID No. F2u1). This polymorphism results in a change from a threonine to a methionine in the amino acid sequence of the F2 protein (SEQ ID NO:10) at amino acid residue 165. A sixth polymorphism is a change from an adenine (A) to a cytidine (C) in the SELP gene at residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 (polymorphism

ID No. SELPu8). This polymorphism results in a change from a threonine to a proline in the amino acid sequence of the SELP protein (SEQ ID NO:12) at amino acid residue 567. A seventh polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a cytidine (C) in the THBS1 gene at residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 (polymorphism ID No. G334u3).

- 5 This polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the THBS1 protein (it is a "silent" variant).

The nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be double- or single-stranded. Accordingly, in one embodiment of the invention, a complement of the nucleotide sequence is provided wherein the polymorphism has been identified. For example, where there has
10 been a single nucleotide change from an adenine to a guanine in a single strand, the complement of that strand will contain a change from a thymidine to a cytidine at the corresponding nucleotide residue. The invention further provides allele-specific oligonucleotides that hybridize to a gene comprising a polymorphism of the present invention or to its complement.

- 15 The polymorphisms of the present invention, in combination with each other, or in combination with previously identified polymorphisms, are shown herein to be associated with specific disorders, *e.g.*, vascular diseases or disorders. Examples of vascular diseases or disorders include, without limitation, atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease (CAD), myocardial infarction (MI), ischemia, stroke, peripheral vascular diseases, venous
20 thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism.

- The invention further provides vectors comprising the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention; host cells transfected with said vectors whether prokaryotic or eukaryotic; and transgenic non-human animals which contain a heterologous form of a functional or non-functional ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele described herein.
25 Such a transgenic animal can serve as an animal model for studying the effect of specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allelic variations, including mutations, as well as for use in drug screening and/or recombinant protein production.

The invention further provides methods for determining the of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. In a preferred embodiment, the

method comprises contacting a sample nucleic acid comprising a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene sequence with a probe or primer having a sequence which is complementary to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene sequence, carrying out a reaction that would amplify and/or detect differences in a region of interest within the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene sequence, and comparing the result of each reaction with that of a reaction with a control (known ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene (*e.g.*, a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene from a human not afflicted with a vascular disease or disorder *e.g.*, CAD, MI, or another disease associated with an aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity) so as to determine the molecular structure of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene sequence in the sample nucleic acid. The method of the invention can be used for example in determining the molecular structure of at least a portion of an exon, an intron, a 5' upstream regulatory element, or the 3' untranslated region. In a preferred embodiment, the method comprises determining the identity of at least one nucleotide. In another preferred embodiment, the nucleotide is residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (the ITGB3 gene), residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (the VWF gene), residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 (the EDNRB gene), residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (the THBS2 gene), residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 (the F2 gene), residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 (the SELP gene), and/or residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 (the THBS1 gene) are determined.

In a preferred embodiment, the identities of residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (the ITGB3 gene), residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (the VWF gene), residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 (the EDNRB gene), and residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (the THBS2 gene) are determined.

In another preferred embodiment, the identities of residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (the ITGB3 gene), residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 (the F2 gene), residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 (the SELP gene), residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (the VWF gene), residue 53502 of the

reference sequence GI 12583762 (the THBS1 gene), and residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (the THBS2 gene) are determined.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the method comprises determining the nucleotide content of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, such as by sequence analysis. In yet another embodiment, determining the molecular structure of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene is carried out by single-stranded conformation polymorphism (SSCP). In yet another embodiment, the method is an oligonucleotide ligation assay (OLA). Other methods within the scope of the invention for determining the molecular structure of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene include hybridization of allele-specific oligonucleotides, sequence specific amplification, primer specific extension, and denaturing high performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC). In at least some of the methods of the invention, the probe or primer is allele specific. Preferred probes or primers are single stranded nucleic acids, which optionally are labeled.

The methods of the invention can be used for determining the identity of a nucleotide or amino acid residue within a polymorphic region of a human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene present in a subject. For example, the methods of the invention can be useful for determining whether a subject has, or is or is not at risk of developing, a disease or condition associated with a specific allelic variant of a polymorphic region in the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder.

In one embodiment, the disease or condition is characterized by an aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity, such as aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein level, which can result from aberrant expression of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. The disease or condition can be CAD, MI, or another vascular disease. Accordingly, the invention provides methods for predicting vascular diseases associated with aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity.

For example, a subject having combination 1, *e.g.*, two copies of an adenine (A), the reference allele, at residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (SEQ ID NO:1) of the ITGB3 gene, in combination with two copies of thymidine (T), the reference allele, at residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (SEQ ID NO:3) of the VWF gene, one
5 copy of a thymidine (T), the variant allele, and one copy of a cytidine (C), the reference allele, at residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 (SEQ ID NO:5) of the EDNRB gene, and one copy of a guanine (G), the variant allele, and one copy of a thymidine (T), the reference allele, at residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (SEQ ID NO:13) of the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof, is at a higher than normal risk of
10 developing a vascular disease such as CAD or MI.

Likewise, a subject having combination 2, *e.g.*, two copies of an adenine (A), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (SEQ ID NO:1) in the ITGB3 gene, in combination with two copies of a cytidine (C), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 (SEQ ID NO:7) in
15 the F2 gene, two copies of an adenine (A), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 (SEQ ID NO:9) in the SELP gene, two copies of an thymidine (T), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (SEQ ID NO:3) in the VWF gene, two copies of a thymidine (T), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 (SEQ ID NO:11)
20 in the THBS1 gene, and one copy of a guanine (G), the variant allele, and one copy of a thymidine (T), the reference allele, at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (SEQ ID NO:13) in the THBS2 gene, is at a higher than normal risk of having or developing a vascular disease such as CAD or MI.

The invention also provides a method of identifying subjects which are at increased
25 risk of developing CAD/MI, wherein the method comprises the steps of i) identifying in DNA from a subject at least one sequence polymorphism, as compared with the reference ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene sequence which comprises SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, respectively, in a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP,

THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene sequence; and ii) identifying the subject based on the identified polymorphism.

In another embodiment, the invention also provides a method for identifying a subject as a candidate for a particular clinical course of therapy for a vascular disease or disorder, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, for example, treatment with medications, lifestyle changes, use of medical devices such as a defibrillator, a stent, a device used in coronary revascularization, a pacemaker, and any combination thereof and/or surgical devices, such as, but not limited to, angioplasty devices, used in, for example, surgical procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary balloon angioplasty (PTCA) or laser angioplasty, implantation of a stent, or surgical intervention, such as coronary bypass grafting (CABG), or any combination thereof, wherein the method comprises the steps of obtaining a nucleic acid sample from the subject, determining the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 107078 of the ITGB3 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 55386 of the VWF gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 75672 of the EDNRB gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 3949 of the THBS2 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 10777 of the F2 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 76666 of the SELP gene, and/or the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 53502 of the THBS2 gene; and identifying the subject based on the identified nucleotides as a subject who is a candidate for a particular clinical course of therapy for a vascular disease or disorder.

In yet another embodiment, the invention provides a method of identifying a subject as a candidate for further diagnostic evaluation for a vascular disease or disorder or for the risk of a vascular disease or disorder, such as, for example, cardiovascular imaging, such as angiography, cardiac ultrasound, coronary angiogram, magnetic resonance imagery, nuclear imaging, CT, myocardial perfusion imagery, or electrocardiogram, genetic analysis, *e.g.*, identification of additional polymorphisms, familial health history analysis, lifestyle analysis, or exercise stress tests, alone or in combination, wherein the method comprises the steps of obtaining a nucleic acid sample from the subject, determining the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 107078 of the ITGB3 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 55386 of the VWF gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 75672 of the EDNRB

gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 3949 of the THBS2 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 10777 of the F2 gene, the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 76666 of the SELP gene, and/or the nucleotide present at nucleotide position 53502 of the THBS2 gene; and identifying the subject based on the identified nucleotides as a
5 subject who is or is not a candidate for further diagnostic evaluation, or who would or would not benefit from further diagnostic evaluation for a vascular disease or disorder.

In a further embodiment, the invention provides a method for treating a subject having a disease or condition associated with a specific allelic variant of a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. In one
10 embodiment, the method comprises the steps of (a) determining the identity of the allelic variant; and (b) administering to the subject a clinical course of therapy that compensates for the effect of the specific allelic variant *e.g.*, treatment with medications, lifestyle changes, medical devices, such as, but not limited to, angioplasty devices, used in, for example, surgical procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary balloon angioplasty (PTCA)
15 or laser angioplasty, implantation of a stent, or surgical procedures, such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, laser angioplasty, implantation of a stent, coronary bypass grafting, implantation of a defibrillator, implantation of a pacemaker, and any combination thereof. In one embodiment, the clinical course of therapy is the administration of a compound or therapeutic that modulates (*i.e.*, agonizes or antagonizes) ITGB3, VWF,
20 EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein levels or nucleic acid expression. In a preferred embodiment, the compound is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid, ribozyme, an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 antisense nucleic acid, a protein, an antibody, a peptidomimetic, or a small molecule. Thus, for example, in a subject having the alleles of combination 1 or combination 2, vascular disorders such as
25 CAD or MI, can be treated, prevented, or ameliorated by administering to the subject a particular clinical course of treatment sufficient to treat, prevent, or ameliorate the vascular disease or disorder.

In a preferred embodiment, the specific allelic variant is a mutation. The mutation can be located, *e.g.*, in a 5' upstream regulatory element, a 3' regulatory element, an intron, or an exon of the gene.

5 Additionally, the invention provides a method of identifying a subject who is susceptible to a vascular disorder, which method comprises the steps of i) providing a nucleic acid sample from a subject; and ii) detecting in the nucleic acid sample a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene polymorphism, or one or more in combination, that correlate with the vascular disorder with a P value less than or equal to 0.05, the existence of the polymorphism being indicative of susceptibility to the vascular disorder.

10 The invention also provides a method of treating vascular disorders which method comprises the step of i) identifying in genetic material of a subject a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene polymorphism that correlates with increased responsiveness to a clinical course of treatment as compared with responsiveness of a subject lacking the polymorphism; and ii) administering the clinical course of therapy to the subject.

15 The invention further provides forensic methods based on detection of polymorphisms within the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes.

The invention also provides probes and primers comprising oligonucleotides, which correspond to a region of nucleotide sequence which hybridizes to at least 6 consecutive nucleotides of the sequence set forth as SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, or 21 or to the
20 complement of the sequences set forth as SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, or 21, or naturally occurring mutants or variants thereof. In preferred embodiments, the probe/primer further includes a label attached thereto, which is capable of being detected.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a kit for amplifying and/or for determining the molecular structure of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, comprising a probe or primer capable of hybridizing to a
25 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene and instructions for use. In a preferred embodiment, determining the molecular structure of a region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene comprises determining the identity of the allelic variant of the polymorphic region. Determining the molecular structure of at least a

portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene can comprise determining the identity of at least one nucleotide or determining the nucleotide composition, *e.g.*, the nucleotide sequence of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

5 A kit of the invention can be used, *e.g.*, for determining whether a subject is or is not at risk of developing a disease associated with a specific allelic variant of a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, *e.g.*, CAD or MI. In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides a kit for determining whether a subject is or is not at risk of developing a vascular disease such as, for example, atherosclerosis, CAD,
10 MI, ischemia, stroke, peripheral vascular diseases, venous thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism. The kit of the invention can also be used in selecting the appropriate clinical course of clinical treatment to a subject to treat a disease or condition, such as a disease or condition set forth above. Thus, determining the allelic variants of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic regions of a subject can be useful in predicting
15 how a subject will respond to a specific drug, *e.g.*, a drug for treating a disease or disorder associated with aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and claims.

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Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 14589612 (SEQ ID NO:1) for the ITGB3 gene.

25 *Figure 2* depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4557677 (SEQ ID NO:2) for the ITGB3 protein.

Figure 3 depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 4827300 (SEQ ID NO:3) for the VWF gene.

Figure 4 depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4507907 (SEQ ID NO:4) for the VWF protein.

Figure 5 depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 12597038 (SEQ ID NO:5) for the EDNBR gene.

Figure 6 depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4557547 (SEQ ID NO:6) for the EDNBR protein.

5 *Figure 7* depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 558069 (SEQ ID NO:7) for the F2 gene.

Figure 8 depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4503635 (SEQ ID NO:8) for the F2 protein.

10 *Figure 9* depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 3790157 (SEQ ID NO:9) for the SELP gene.

Figure 10 depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4506877 for the SELP protein (SEQ ID NO:10).

Figure 11 depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 12583762 (SEQ ID NO:11) for the THBS1 gene.

15 *Figure 12* depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 14749302 (SEQ ID NO:12).for the THBS1 protein.

Figure 13 depicts the nucleotide sequence corresponding to reference sequence GI 307505 (SEQ ID NO:13) for the THBS2 gene.

20 *Figure 14* depicts the reference amino acid sequence GI 4507487 (SEQ ID NO:14) for the THBS2 protein.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention is based, in part, on the identification of polymorphic regions within the integrin beta 3 gene (ITGB3), the von Willebrand factor gene (VWF), the
25 endothelin receptor type B gene (EDNRB), the factor 2 gene (F2), the P-selectin (SELP) gene, and the thrombospondin 1 (THBS1) and thrombospondin 2 (THBS2) genes. The polymorphic regions of the invention contain polymorphisms which, when used in specific combinations (*e.g.*, combination 1 and/or combination 2, as described herein), correlate with specific diseases or conditions, including vascular diseases or disorders, including, but not

limited to, atherosclerosis, coronary artery disease (CAD), myocardial infarction (MI), ischemia, stroke, peripheral vascular diseases, venous thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism.

The polymorphisms of the present invention are single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) at a specific nucleotide residue within the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes. The ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes have at least two alleles, referred to herein as the reference allele and the variant allele. The reference alleles (*i.e.*, the consensus sequence, or wild type allele) have been designated based on their frequency in a general U.S. Caucasian population sample. The reference allele is the more common of the two alleles; the variant is the more rare of the two alleles. Nucleotide sequences in GenBank may correspond to either allele and correspond to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide sequence which has been deposited in GenBank™ and given a specific Accession Number (*e.g.*, GI 14589612, the reference sequence for the ITGB3 gene, GI 4827300, the reference sequence for the VWF gene, GI 12597038, the reference sequence for the EDNRB gene, GI 558069, the reference sequence for the F2 gene, GI 3790157, the reference sequence for the SELP gene, GI 12583762, the reference sequence for the THBS1 gene, and GI 307505, the reference sequence for the THBS2 gene, corresponding to SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, and SEQ ID NO:13, respectively). The reference sequence for the amino acid sequences of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 proteins are set forth as SEQ ID NO:2 (GI 4557677), SEQ ID NO:4 (GI 4507907), SEQ ID NO:6 (GI 4557547), SEQ ID NO:8 (GI 4503635), SEQ ID NO:10 (GI 4506877), SEQ ID NO:12 (GI 14749302), and SEQ ID NO:14 (GI 4507487), respectively. The variant allele differs from the reference allele by at least one nucleotide at the site(s) identified in Table 1, and those in linkage disequilibrium therewith. The present invention thus relates to nucleotides comprising variant alleles of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 reference sequences and/or complements of the variant alleles to be used singly, or, preferably, in combination.

Four of the SNPs of the present invention, when used in combination, can be used to

determine whether a subject is at an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (referred to herein as “combination 1”). Combination 1 comprises “AA” at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, “TT” at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, “TC” at nucleotide residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 of the EDNRB gene, and “GT” at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 of the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof. When this combination is present in a subject, that subject is approximately three times more likely to develop a cardiovascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, than an individual with any other combination of alleles at these loci (see Table 2, below).

Table 2.
COMBINATION 1:

GENE(polyID)	allele	Genbank Accession No.	nt position
ITGB3 (ITGB3u2)	AA	GI:14589612	107078
VWF (G391u14)	TT	GI:4827300	55386
EDNRB (G337a4)	TC	GI:12597038	75672
THBS2 (G5755e5)	GT	GI:307505	3949
Odds ratio: 3.28 [1.82,5.90]			

In another aspect of the invention, a second combination of six of the SNPs identified herein can be used to determine whether a subject is at an increased risk of developing a cardiovascular disease (referred to herein as “combination 2”). Combination 2 comprises “AA” at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, “CC” at nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, “AA” at nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, “TT” at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, “TT” at nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and “GT” at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 in the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof. When this combination is present in a subject, that subject is approximately four and a half times more likely to develop a cardiovascular

disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, than individuals with any other combination of alleles at these loci (see Table 3, below).

Table 3.

5 **COMBINATION 2:**

GENE(polyID)	allele	Genbank Accession No.	nt position
ITGB3 (ITGB3u2)	AA	GI: 14589612	107078
F2 (f2u1)	CC	GI:558069	10777
SELP (selpu8)	AA	GI:3790157	76666
VWF (G391u14)	TT	GI:4827300	55386
THBS1 (G334u3)	TT	GI:12583762	53502
THBS2 (G5755e5)	GT	GI:307505	3949
Odds ratio: 4.591 [2.381,8.851]			

The invention further relates to nucleotides comprising portions of the variant alleles and/or portions of complements of the variant alleles which comprise the site of the polymorphism and are at least 5 nucleotides or basepairs in length. Portions can be, for example, 5-10, 5-15, 10-20, 2-25, 10-30, 10-50 or 10-100 bases or basepairs long. For example, a portion of a variant allele which is 17 nucleotides or basepairs in length includes the polymorphism (*i.e.*, the nucleotide(s) which differ from the reference allele at that site) and twenty additional nucleotides or basepairs which flank the site in the variant allele. These additional nucleotides and basepairs can be on one or both sides of the polymorphism. Polymorphisms which are the subject of this invention are defined in Table 1 with respect to the reference sequences identified in Table 1, and those polymorphisms in linkage disequilibrium with the polymorphisms of Table 1. For example, the invention relates to nucleotides comprising a portion of the ITGB3 gene having a nucleotide sequence of GI 14589612 (SEQ ID NO:1), or a portion thereof, comprising a polymorphism at a specific nucleotide residue (*e.g.*, a cytidine at residue 107078).

It is understood that the invention is not limited by these exemplified reference sequences, as variants of these sequences which differ at locations other than the SNP sites identified herein can also be utilized. The skilled artisan can readily determine the SNP sites

in these other reference sequences which correspond to the SNP sites identified herein by aligning the sequence of interest with the reference sequences specifically disclosed herein, and programs for performing such alignments are commercially available. For example, the ALIGN program in the GCG software package can be used, utilizing a PAM120 weight
 5 residue table, a gap length penalty of 12 and a gap penalty of 4, for example.

The polymorphic region of the present invention is associated with specific diseases or disorders and has been identified in the human F7 gene by analyzing the DNA of cell lines derived from an ethnically diverse population by methods described in Cargill, *et al.* (1999) *Nature Genetics* 22:231-238.

10 Cases which were used to identify associations between vascular disease and SNPs were comprised of 352 U.S. Caucasian subject with premature coronary artery disease were identified in 15 participating medical centers, fulfilling the criteria of either myocardial infarction, surgical or percutaneous revascularization, or a significant coronary artery lesion diagnosed before age 45 in men or age 50 in women and having a living sibling who met the
 15 same criteria. These cases were compared with a random sample of 418 Caucasian controls drawn from the general U.S. population in Atlanta, Georgia.

The allelic variants of the present invention were identified by performing denaturing high performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC) analysis, variant detector arrays (Affymetrix™), the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and/or single stranded conformation
 20 polymorphism (SSCP) analysis of genomic DNA from independent individuals as described in the Examples, using PCR primers complementary to intronic sequences surrounding each of the exons, 3' UTR, and 5' upstream regulatory element sequences of the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes.

The presence of at least one polymorphism in the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,
 25 SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes in the population studied were identified. Each of the variants are characterized as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). The preferred polymorphisms of the invention are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 contains a "polymorphism ID No." in column 2, which is used herein to identify each individual variant. In Table 1, the nucleotide sequence flanking each

polymorphism is provided in column 9, wherein the polymorphic residue(s), having the wild-type or reference nucleotide, is indicated in lower-case letters. There are 8 nucleotides flanking the polymorphic nucleotide residue (*i.e.*, 8 nucleotides 5' of the polymorphism and 8 nucleotides 3' of the polymorphism). Column 10 indicates the SEQ ID NO. that is used to
 5 identify each polymorphism. SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 comprise sequences shown in column 9, with the variant nucleotide residue shown by a lower-case letter.

Each polymorphism is identified based on a change in the nucleotide sequence from a consensus sequence, or the "reference sequence." As used herein, the reference sequence of ITGB3 is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 which corresponds to GI 14589612
 10 (see Figure 1), the reference sequence of VWF is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 which corresponds to GI 4827300 (see Figure 3) the reference sequence of EDNRB is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 which corresponds to GI 12597038 (see Figure 5), the reference sequence of F2 is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 which corresponds to GI 558069 (see Figure 7), the reference sequence of SELP is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ
 15 ID NO:9 which corresponds to GI 3790157 (see Figure 9), the reference sequence of THBS1 is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 which corresponds to GI 12583762 (see Figure 11), and the reference sequence of THBS2 is the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:13 which corresponds to GI 307505 (see Figure 13).

To identify the location of each polymorphism in Table 1, a specific nucleotide
 20 residue in a reference sequence is listed for each polymorphism, where nucleotide residue number 1 is the first (*i.e.*, 5') nucleotide in each reference sequence. Column 8 lists the reference sequence and polymorphic residue(s) for each polymorphism. Column 4 describes the type of variant for each SNP, *e.g.*, silent, non-coding, or missense (mis).

25 The nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be double- or single-stranded. Accordingly, the invention further provides for the complementary nucleic acid strands comprising the polymorphisms listed in Table 1.

The invention further provides allele-specific oligonucleotides that hybridize to a gene comprising a single nucleotide polymorphism or to the complement of the gene. Such

oligonucleotides will hybridize to one polymorphic form of the nucleic acid molecules described herein but not to the other polymorphic form(s) of the sequence. Thus such oligonucleotides can be used to determine the presence or absence of particular alleles of the polymorphic sequences described herein. These oligonucleotides can be probes or primers.

5 Not only does the present invention provide polymorphisms in linkage disequilibrium with the polymorphisms of Table 1, it also provides methods for revealing the existence of yet other polymorphic regions in the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. For example, the polymorphism studies described herein can also be applied to populations in which other vascular diseases or disorders are prevalent.

10 Other aspects of the invention are described below or will be apparent to one of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure.

Definitions

For convenience, the meaning of certain terms and phrases employed in the specification, examples, and appended claims are provided below.

15 The term “allele”, which is used interchangeably herein with “allelic variant” refers to alternative forms of a gene or portions thereof. Alleles occupy the same locus or position on homologous chromosomes. When a subject has two identical alleles of a gene, the subject is said to be homozygous for the gene or allele. When a subject has two different alleles of a gene, the subject is said to be heterozygous for the gene or allele. Alleles of a specific gene, including the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes, can differ from each other in a single nucleotide, or several nucleotides, and can include substitutions, deletions, and insertions of nucleotides. An allele of a gene can also be a form of a gene containing one or more mutations.

25 The term “allelic variant of a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene” refers to an alternative form of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene having one of several possible nucleotide sequences found in that region of the gene in the population.

"Biological activity" or "bioactivity" or "activity" or "biological function", which are used interchangeably, for the purposes herein when applied to ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, means an effector or antigenic function that is directly or indirectly performed by a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide (whether in its native or denatured conformation), or by a fragment thereof. Biological activities include modulation of the development of atherosclerotic plaque leading to vascular disease and other biological activities, whether presently known or inherent. A ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 bioactivity can be modulated by directly affecting a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein effected by, for example, changing the level of effector or substrate level. Alternatively, a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 bioactivity can be modulated by modulating the level of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, such as by modulating expression of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. Antigenic functions include possession of an epitope or antigenic site that is capable of cross-reacting with antibodies that bind a native or denatured ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide or fragment thereof.

Biologically active ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides include polypeptides having both an effector and antigenic function, or only one of such functions. ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides include antagonist polypeptides and native ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides, provided that such antagonists include an epitope of a native ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide. An effector function of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide can be the ability to bind to a ligand of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 molecule.

As used herein the term "bioactive fragment of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein" refers to a fragment of a full-length ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, wherein the fragment specifically mimics or antagonizes the activity of a wild-type ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein.

The bioactive fragment preferably is a fragment capable of binding to a second molecule, such as a ligand.

The term “an aberrant activity” or “abnormal activity”, as applied to an activity of a protein such as ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, refers to an activity
5 which differs from the activity of the normal or reference protein or which differs from the activity of the protein in a healthy subject, *e.g.*, a subject not afflicted with a disease associated with a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allelic variant. An activity of a protein can be aberrant because it is stronger than the activity of its wild-type counterpart. Alternatively, an activity of a protein can be aberrant because it is weaker or
10 absent relative to the activity of its normal or reference counterpart. An aberrant activity can also be a change in reactivity. For example an aberrant protein can interact with a different protein or ligand relative to its normal or reference counterpart. A cell can also have aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity due to overexpression or underexpression of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.
15 Aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity can result from a mutation in the gene, which results, *e.g.*, in lower or higher binding affinity of a ligand to the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein encoded by the mutated gene. Aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity can also result from an abnormal ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 5' upstream
20 regulatory element activity.

“Cells,” “host cells” or “recombinant host cells” are terms used interchangeably herein. It is understood that such terms refer not only to the particular cell but to the progeny or derivatives of such a cell. Because certain modifications may occur in succeeding generations due to either mutation or environmental influences, such progeny
25 may not, in fact, be identical to the parent cell, but are still included within the scope of the term as used herein.

As used herein, the term “course of clinical therapy” refers to any chosen method to treat, prevent, or ameliorate a vascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, symptoms thereof, or related diseases or disorders. Courses of clinical therapy include, but are not limited to,

disease can be ascertained through identification of the identity of allelic variants in one or more genes which are associated with the particular disease.

“Homology” or “identity” or “similarity” refers to sequence similarity between two peptides or between two nucleic acid molecules. Homology can be determined by
5 comparing a position in each sequence which may be aligned for purposes of comparison. When a position in the compared sequence is occupied by the same base or amino acid, then the molecules are homologous at that position. A degree of homology between sequences is a function of the number of matching or homologous positions shared by the sequences. An “unrelated” or “non-homologous” sequence shares less than 40 % identity, though preferably
10 less than 25 % identity, with one of the sequences of the present invention.

To determine the percent identity of two amino acid sequences or of two nucleic acids, the sequences are aligned for optimal comparison purposes (*e.g.*, gaps can be introduced in the sequence of a first amino acid or nucleic acid sequence for optimal alignment with a second amino or nucleic acid sequence). The amino acid residues or
15 nucleotides at corresponding amino acid positions or nucleotide positions are then compared. When a position in the first sequence is occupied by the same amino acid residue or nucleotide as the corresponding position in the second sequence, then the molecules are identical at that position. The percent identity between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (*i.e.*, % identity = number of identical
20 positions/total number of positions (*e.g.*, overlapping positions) $\times 100$). In one embodiment the two sequences are the same length.

The determination of percent identity between two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. A preferred, non-limiting example of a mathematical algorithm utilized for the comparison of two sequences is the algorithm of Karlin and
25 Altschul (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:2264-2268, modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-5877. Such an algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs of Altschul, *et al.* (1990) *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410. BLAST nucleotide searches can be performed with the NBLAST program, score = 100, wordlength = 12 to obtain nucleotide sequences homologous to a

nucleic acid or peptide that is substantially free of cellular material, viral material, or culture medium when produced by recombinant DNA techniques, or chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. Moreover, an "isolated nucleic acid" is meant to include nucleic acid fragments which are not naturally occurring as fragments and would not
5 be found in the natural state. The term "isolated" is also used herein to refer to polypeptides which are isolated from other cellular proteins and is meant to encompass both purified and recombinant polypeptides.

The term "linkage" describes the tendency of genes, alleles, loci or genetic markers to be inherited together as a result of their location on the same chromosome. It can be
10 measured by percent recombination between the two genes, alleles, loci, or genetic markers. The term "linkage disequilibrium" refers to a greater than random association between specific alleles at two marker loci within a particular population. In general, linkage disequilibrium decreases with an increase in physical distance. If linkage disequilibrium exists between two markers, then the genotypic information at one marker can be used to
15 make probabilistic predictions about the genotype of the second marker.

The term "locus" refers to a specific position in a chromosome. For example, a locus of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene refers to the chromosomal position of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

The term "modulation" as used herein refers to both upregulation, (*i.e.*, activation or
20 stimulation), for example by agonizing; and downregulation (*i.e.* inhibition or suppression), for example by antagonizing of a bioactivity (*e.g.* expression of a gene).

The term "molecular structure" of a gene or a portion thereof refers to the structure as defined by the nucleotide content (including deletions, substitutions, additions of one or more nucleotides), the nucleotide sequence, the state of methylation, and/or any other
25 modification of the gene or portion thereof.

The term "mutated gene" refers to an allelic form of a gene that differs from the predominant form in a population. A mutated gene is capable of altering the phenotype of a subject having the mutated gene relative to a subject having the predominant form of the gene. If a subject must be homozygous for this mutation to have an altered phenotype, the

regions of a gene, such as introns. Thus, it is possible that ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes have regulatory elements located in introns, exons, coding regions, and 3' flanking sequences. Such regulatory elements are also intended to be encompassed by the present invention and can be identified by any of the assays that can be
5 used to identify regulatory elements in 5' flanking regions of genes.

The term "regulatory element" further encompasses "tissue specific" regulatory elements, *i.e.*, regulatory elements which effect expression of an operably linked DNA sequence preferentially in specific cells (*e.g.*, cells of a specific tissue). Gene expression occurs preferentially in a specific cell if expression in this cell type is significantly higher
10 than expression in other cell types. The term "regulatory element" also encompasses non-tissue specific regulatory elements, *i.e.*, regulatory elements which are active in most cell types. Furthermore, a regulatory element can be a constitutive regulatory element, *i.e.*, a regulatory element which constitutively regulates transcription, as opposed to a regulatory element which is inducible, *i.e.*, a regulatory element which is active primarily in response to
15 a stimulus. A stimulus can be, *e.g.*, a molecule, such as a protein, hormone, cytokine, heavy metal, phorbol ester, cyclic AMP (cAMP), or retinoic acid.

Regulatory elements are typically bound by proteins, *e.g.*, transcription factors. The term "transcription factor" is intended to include proteins or modified forms thereof, which interact preferentially with specific nucleic acid sequences, *i.e.*, regulatory elements, and
20 which in appropriate conditions stimulate or repress transcription. Some transcription factors are active when they are in the form of a monomer. Alternatively, other transcription factors are active in the form of a dimer consisting of two identical proteins or different proteins (heterodimer). Modified forms of transcription factors are intended to refer to transcription factors having a postranslational modification, such as the attachment of a phosphate group.
25 The activity of a transcription factor is frequently modulated by a postranslational modification. For example, certain transcription factors are active only if they are phosphorylated on specific residues. Alternatively, transcription factors can be active in the absence of phosphorylated residues and become inactivated by phosphorylation. A list of

known transcription factors and their DNA binding site can be found, *e.g.*, in public databases, *e.g.*, TFMATRIX Transcription Factor Binding Site Profile database.

The term "single nucleotide polymorphism" (SNP) refers to a polymorphic site occupied by a single nucleotide, which is the site of variation between allelic sequences. The site is usually preceded by and followed by highly conserved sequences of the allele (*e.g.*,
5 sequences that vary in less than 1/100 or 1/1000 members of a population). A SNP usually arises due to substitution of one nucleotide for another at the polymorphic site. SNPs can also arise from a deletion of a nucleotide or an insertion of a nucleotide relative to a reference allele. Typically the polymorphic site is occupied by a base other than the reference base.
10 For example, where the reference allele contains the base "T" (thymidine) at the polymorphic site, the altered allele can contain a "C" (cytidine), "G" (guanine), or "A" (adenine) at the polymorphic site.

SNP's may occur in protein-coding nucleic acid sequences, in which case they may give rise to a defective or otherwise variant protein, or genetic disease. Such a SNP may
15 alter the coding sequence of the gene and therefore specify another amino acid (a "missense" SNP) or a SNP may introduce a stop codon (a "nonsense" SNP). When a SNP does not alter the amino acid sequence of a protein, the SNP is called "silent." SNP's may also occur in noncoding regions of the nucleotide sequence. This may result in defective protein expression, *e.g.*, as a result of alternative splicing, or it may have no effect.

20 As used herein, the term "specifically hybridizes" or "specifically detects" refers to the ability of a nucleic acid molecule of the invention to hybridize to at least approximately 6, 12, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130 or 140 consecutive nucleotides of either strand of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

As used herein, the term "transfection" means the introduction of a nucleic acid, *e.g.*,
25 an expression vector, into a recipient cell by nucleic acid-mediated gene transfer. The term "transduction" is generally used herein when the transfection with a nucleic acid is by viral delivery of the nucleic acid. "Transformation", as used herein, refers to a process in which a cell's genotype is changed as a result of the cellular uptake of exogenous DNA or RNA, and, for example, the transformed cell expresses a recombinant form of a polypeptide or, in the

case of anti-sense expression from the transferred gene, the expression of a naturally-occurring form of the recombinant protein is disrupted.

As used herein, the term "transgene" refers to a nucleic acid sequence which has been genetic-engineered into a cell. Daughter cells deriving from a cell in which a transgene has been introduced are also said to contain the transgene (unless it has been deleted). A transgene can encode, *e.g.*, a polypeptide, or an antisense transcript, partly or entirely heterologous, *i.e.*, foreign, to the transgenic animal or cell into which it is introduced, or, is homologous to an endogenous gene of the transgenic animal or cell into which it is introduced, but which is designed to be inserted, or is inserted, into the animal's genome in such a way as to alter the genome of the cell into which it is inserted (*e.g.*, it is inserted at a location which differs from that of the natural gene or its insertion results in a knockout). Alternatively, a transgene can also be present in an episome. A transgene can include one or more transcriptional regulatory sequence and any other nucleic acid, (*e.g.* intron), that may be necessary for optimal expression of a selected nucleic acid.

A "transgenic animal" refers to any animal, preferably a non-human animal, *e.g.* a mammal, bird or an amphibian, in which one or more of the cells of the animal contain heterologous nucleic acid introduced by genetic engineering, such as by transgenic techniques well known in the art. The nucleic acid is introduced into the cell, directly or indirectly by introduction into a precursor of the cell, by way of deliberate genetic manipulation, such as by microinjection or by infection with a recombinant virus. The term genetic manipulation does not include classical cross-breeding, or *in vitro* fertilization, but rather is directed to the introduction of a recombinant DNA molecule. This molecule may be integrated within a chromosome, or it may be extrachromosomally replicating DNA. In the typical transgenic animals described herein, the transgene causes cells to express a recombinant form of one of a protein, *e.g.* either agonistic or antagonistic forms. However, transgenic animals in which the recombinant gene is silent are also contemplated, as for example, the FLP or CRE recombinase dependent constructs described below. Moreover, "transgenic animal" also includes those recombinant animals in which gene disruption of one

or more genes is caused by human intervention, including both recombination and antisense techniques.

The term "treatment", or "treating" as used herein, is defined as the application or administration of a therapeutic agent to a subject, implementation of lifestyle changes (*e.g.*,
5 changes in diet or environment), administration of medication, use of medical devices, such as, but not limited to, stents, defibrillators, and angioplasty devices, or any combination thereof or, surgical procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary balloon angioplasty (PTCA) or laser angioplasty, defibrillators, implantation of a stent, or other surgical intervention, such as, for example, coronary bypass grafting (CABG), or any
10 combination thereof, or application or administration of a therapeutic agent to an isolated tissue or cell line from a subject, who has a disease or disorder, a symptom of disease or disorder or a predisposition toward a disease or disorder, with the purpose to cure, heal, alleviate, relieve, alter, remedy, ameliorate, improve or affect the disease or disorder, the symptoms of the disease or disorder, or the predisposition toward disease. The medical
15 devices described in the methods of the invention can also be used in combination with a modulator of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene expression or ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 polypeptide activity. Modulators of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene expression include ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 nucleic acid molecules, antisense
20 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 nucleic acid molecules, ribozymes, or a small molecules. Modulators of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 polypeptide activity include ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2-specific antibodies or ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 proteins or polypeptides.

25 As used herein, the term "vector" refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting or replicating another nucleic acid to which it has been linked. One type of preferred vector is an episome, *i.e.*, a nucleic acid capable of extra-chromosomal replication. Preferred vectors are those capable of autonomous replication and/or expression of nucleic acids to which they are linked. Vectors capable of directing the expression of genes to which

they are operatively-linked are referred to herein as "expression vectors". In general, expression vectors of utility in recombinant DNA techniques are often in the form of "plasmids" which refer generally to circular double stranded DNA circles which, in their vector form are not physically linked to the host chromosome. In the present specification, "plasmid" and "vector" are used interchangeably as the plasmid is the most commonly used form of vector. However, the invention is intended to include such other forms of expression vectors which serve equivalent functions and which become known in the art subsequently hereto.

10 Polymorphisms of the Invention

The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention include specific allelic variants of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 gene, which differ from the reference sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 respectively, or at least a portion thereof, having a polymorphic region. The preferred nucleic acid molecules of the present invention comprise ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 sequences having one or more of the polymorphisms shown in Table 1 (SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21), and those in linkage disequilibrium therewith. The invention further comprises isolated nucleic acid molecules complementary to nucleic acid molecules comprising the polymorphisms of the present invention. Nucleic acid molecules of the present invention can function as probes or primers, *e.g.*, in methods for determining the allelic identity of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region. The nucleic acids of the invention can also be used, singly, or, preferably, in combination, to determine whether a subject is or is not at risk of developing a disease associated with a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder. The nucleic acids of the invention can further be used to prepare or express ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides encoded by specific alleles, such as mutant alleles. Such nucleic acids can be used in gene therapy. Polypeptides encoded by specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles, such as mutant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,

SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides, can also be used in therapy or for preparing reagents, *e.g.*, antibodies, for detecting ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins encoded by these alleles. Accordingly, such reagents can be used to detect mutant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins.

5 As described herein, allelic variants of human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes have been identified. The invention is intended to encompass these allelic variants as well as, those in linkage disequilibrium which can be identified, *e.g.*, according to the methods described herein. "Linkage disequilibrium" refers to an association between specific alleles at two marker loci within a particular population. In general, linkage
10 disequilibrium decreases with an increase in physical distance. If linkage disequilibrium exists between two markers, then the genotypic information at one marker can be used to make predictions about the genotype of the second marker.

 The invention also provides isolated nucleic acids comprising at least one polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene having
15 a nucleotide sequence which differs from the reference nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, respectively. Preferred nucleic acids have a variant allele located in the coding region of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. Preferred nucleic acids can also have a polymorphic region in an upstream regulatory element, an exon, or in the 3' UTR.

20 The nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be single stranded DNA (*e.g.*, an oligonucleotide), double stranded DNA (*e.g.*, double stranded oligonucleotide) or RNA. Preferred nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be used as probes or primers. Primers of the invention refer to nucleic acids which hybridize to a nucleic acid sequence which is adjacent to the region of interest or which covers the region of interest and is extended. As
25 used herein, the term "hybridizes" is intended to describe conditions for hybridization and washing under which nucleotide sequences that are significantly identical or homologous to each other remain hybridized to each other. Preferably, the conditions are such that sequences at least about 70%, more preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about 85% or 90% identical to each other remain hybridized to each other. Such

practitioner that additional reagents may be added to hybridization and/or wash buffers to decrease non-specific hybridization of nucleic acid molecules to membranes, for example, nitrocellulose or nylon membranes, including but not limited to blocking agents (*e.g.*, BSA or salmon or herring sperm carrier DNA), detergents (*e.g.*, SDS), chelating agents (*e.g.*,
5 EDTA), Ficoll, PVP and the like. When using nylon membranes, in particular, an additional preferred, non-limiting example of stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in 0.25-0.5M NaH₂PO₄, 7% SDS at about 65°C, followed by one or more washes at 0.02M NaH₂PO₄, 1% SDS at 65°C, see *e.g.*, Church and Gilbert (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:1991-1995, (or alternatively 0.2X SSC, 1% SDS).

10 A primer or probe can be used alone in a detection method, or a primer can be used together with at least one other primer or probe in a detection method. Primers can also be used to amplify at least a portion of a nucleic acid. Probes of the invention refer to nucleic acids which hybridize to the region of interest and which are not further extended. For example, a probe is a nucleic acid which specifically hybridizes to a polymorphic region of a
15 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, and which by hybridization or absence of hybridization to the DNA of a subject or the type of hybrid formed will be indicative of the identity of the allelic variant of the polymorphic region of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

Numerous procedures for determining the nucleotide sequence of a nucleic acid
20 molecule, or for determining the presence of mutations in nucleic acid molecules include a nucleic acid amplification step, which can be carried out by, *e.g.*, polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention provides primers for amplifying portions of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, such as portions of exons and/or portions of introns. In a preferred embodiment, the exons and/or sequences
25 adjacent to the exons of the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene will be amplified to, *e.g.*, detect which allelic variant, if any, of a polymorphic region is present in the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene of a subject. Preferred primers comprise a nucleotide sequence complementary a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region and of

sufficient length to selectively hybridize with a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, or a combination thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the primer, *e.g.*, a substantially purified oligonucleotide, comprises a region having a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to about 6, 8, 10, or 12, preferably 25, 30, 40, 50, or 75 consecutive nucleotides of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. In an even more preferred embodiment, the primer is capable of hybridizing to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 nucleotide sequence, complements thereof, allelic variants thereof, or complements of allelic variants thereof. For example, primers comprising a nucleotide sequence of at least about 15 consecutive nucleotides, at least about 25 nucleotides or having from about 15 to about 20 nucleotides set forth in any of SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21, or complements thereof are provided by the invention. Primers having a sequence of more than about 25 nucleotides are also within the scope of the invention. Preferred primers of the invention are primers that can be used in PCR for amplifying each of the exons of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

Primers can be complementary to nucleotide sequences located close to each other or further apart, depending on the use of the amplified DNA. For example, primers can be chosen such that they amplify DNA fragments of at least about 10 nucleotides or as much as several kilobases. Preferably, the primers of the invention will hybridize selectively to ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 nucleotide sequences located about 150 to about 350 nucleotides apart.

For amplifying at least a portion of a nucleic acid, a forward primer (*i.e.*, 5' primer) and a reverse primer (*i.e.*, 3' primer) will preferably be used. Forward and reverse primers hybridize to complementary strands of a double stranded nucleic acid, such that upon extension from each primer, a double stranded nucleic acid is amplified. A forward primer can be a primer having a nucleotide sequence or a portion of the nucleotide sequence shown in Table 1 (SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, and SEQ ID NO:21). A reverse primer can be a primer having a nucleotide sequence or a portion of the nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a

The ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 nucleic acids of the invention can also be used as probes, *e.g.*, in therapeutic and diagnostic assays. For instance, the present invention provides a probe comprising a substantially purified oligonucleotide, which oligonucleotide comprises a region having a nucleotide sequence that is capable of hybridizing specifically to a region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene which is polymorphic (SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21). In an even more preferred embodiment of the invention, the probes are capable of hybridizing

specifically to one allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene having a nucleotide sequence which differs from the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13. Such probes can then be used to specifically detect which allelic variant of a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene is present in a subject. The polymorphic region can be located in the 5' upstream regulatory element, exon, or intron sequences of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

Particularly, preferred probes of the invention have a number of nucleotides sufficient to allow specific hybridization to the target nucleotide sequence. Where the target nucleotide sequence is present in a large fragment of DNA, such as a genomic DNA fragment of several tens or hundreds of kilobases, the size of the probe may have to be longer to provide sufficiently specific hybridization, as compared to a probe which is used to detect a target sequence which is present in a shorter fragment of DNA. For example, in some diagnostic methods, a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene may first be amplified and thus isolated from the rest of the chromosomal DNA and then hybridized to a probe. In such a situation, a shorter probe will likely provide sufficient specificity of hybridization. For example, a probe having a nucleotide sequence of about 10 nucleotides may be sufficient.

In preferred embodiments, the probe or primer further comprises a label attached thereto, which, *e.g.*, is capable of being detected, *e.g.* the label group is selected from amongst radioisotopes, fluorescent compounds, enzymes, and enzyme co-factors.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the isolated nucleic acid, which is used, *e.g.*, as a probe or a primer, is modified, so as to be more stable than naturally occurring nucleotides. Exemplary nucleic acid molecules which are modified include phosphoramidate, phosphothioate and methylphosphonate analogs of DNA (see also U.S. Patent Numbers 5,176,996; 5,264,564; and 5,256,775).

The nucleic acids of the invention can also be modified at the base moiety, sugar moiety, or phosphate backbone, for example, to improve stability of the molecule. The nucleic acids, *e.g.*, probes or primers, may include other appended groups such as peptides

(*e.g.*, for targeting host cell receptors *in vivo*), or agents facilitating transport across the cell membrane (see, *e.g.*, Letsinger *et al.*, 1989, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 86:6553-6556; Lemaitre *et al.*, 1987, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 84:648-652; PCT Publication No. WO88/09810, published December 15, 1988), hybridization-triggered cleavage agents. (See, *e.g.*, Krol *et al.*, 1988, *BioTechniques* 6:958-976) or intercalating agents. (See, *e.g.*, Zon, 1988, *Pharm. Res.* 5:539-549). To this end, the nucleic acid of the invention may be conjugated to another molecule, *e.g.*, a peptide, hybridization triggered cross-linking agent, transport agent, hybridization-triggered cleavage agent, etc.

The isolated nucleic acid comprising a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 intronic sequence may comprise at least one modified base moiety which is selected from the group including but not limited to 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-iodouracil, hypoxanthine, xantine, 4-acetylcytidine, 5-(carboxyhydroxymethyl) uracil, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyl-2-thiouridine, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyluracil, dihydrouracil, beta-D-galactosylqueosine, inosine, N6-isopentenyladenine, 1-methylguanine, 1-methylinosine, 2,2-dimethylguanine, 2-methyladenine, 2-methylguanine, 3-methylcytidine, 5-methylcytidine, N6-adenine, 7-methylguanine, 5-methylaminomethyluracil, 5-methoxyaminomethyl-2-thiouracil, beta-D-mannosylqueosine, 5'-methoxycarboxymethyluracil, 5-methoxyuracil, 2-methylthio-N6-isopentenyladenine, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid (v), wybutoxosine, pseudouracil, queosine, 2-thiocytidine, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-methyluracil, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid methylester, uracil-5-oxyacetic acid (v), 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 3-(3-amino-3-N-2-carboxypropyl) uracil, (acp3)w, and 2,6-diaminopurine.

The isolated nucleic acid may also comprise at least one modified sugar moiety selected from the group including but not limited to arabinose, 2-fluoroarabinose, xylulose, and hexose.

In yet another embodiment, the nucleic acid comprises at least one modified phosphate backbone selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, a phosphorodithioate, a phosphoramidothioate, a phosphoramidate, a phosphordiamidate, a methylphosphonate, an alkyl phosphotriester, and a formacetal or analog thereof.

The present invention provides isolated ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides, such as ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides which are encoded by specific allelic variants of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, including those identified herein. The amino acid sequences of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins have been deduced. The ITGB3 gene encodes a 788 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Fitzgerald, *et al.* (1987) *J. Biol. Chem.* 262(9):3936-3939. The VWF gene encodes a 2,813 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Mancuso, D.J., *et al.* (1989) *J. Biol. Chem.* 264 (33), 19514-19527. The EDNRB gene encodes a 442 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Nakamuta, *et al.* (1991) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 177(1):34-39. The THBS2 gene encodes a 1,172 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, LaBell, *et al.* (1993) *Genomics* 17(1):225-229. The F2 gene encodes a 622 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Degan, *et al.* (1983) *Biochemistry* 22(9):2087-2097. The SELP gene encodes an 830 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Johnson, *et al.* (1989) *Cell* 56:1033-1044. The THBS1 gene encodes a 1,170 amino acid protein and is described in, for example, Lawler and Hynes (1986) *J. Cell Biol.* 103(5):1635-1648. The SNPs of the ITGB3 gene, the F2 gene, and the SELP gene described herein are missense variants which result in the change of an amino acid in the amino acid sequence each gene,

as described herein. The SNPs of the VWF gene, the EDNRB gene, and the THBS1 gene are silent variants, and the SNPs of the THBS2 gene is a non-coding variant.

In one embodiment, the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides are isolated from, or otherwise substantially free of other cellular proteins. The term “substantially free of other cellular proteins” (also referred to herein as “contaminating proteins”) or “substantially pure or purified preparations” are defined as encompassing preparations of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides having less than about 20% (by dry weight) contaminating protein, and preferably having less than about 5% contaminating protein. It will be appreciated that functional forms of the subject polypeptides can be prepared, for the first time, as purified preparations by using a cloned gene as described herein.

Preferred ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins of the invention have an amino acid sequence which is at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, or 95% identical or homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, or 14, respectively. Even more preferred ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins comprise an amino acid sequence which is at least about 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% homologous or identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, or 14, respectively. Such proteins can be recombinant proteins, and can be, *e.g.*, produced *in vitro* from nucleic acids comprising a specific allele of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region. For example, recombinant polypeptides preferred by the present invention can be encoded by a nucleic acid which comprises a sequence which is at least 85% homologous and more preferably 90% homologous and most preferably 95 % homologous with a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, or 13 and comprises an allele of a polymorphic region that differs from that set forth in SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, or 13. Polypeptides which are encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a sequence that is at least about 98-99% homologous with the sequence of SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, or 13 and comprises an allele of a polymorphic region that differs from that set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, or 13 are also within the scope of the invention.

In general, peptides and polypeptides referred to herein as having an activity (*e.g.*, are “bioactive”) of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein are defined as peptides and polypeptides which mimic or antagonize all or a portion of the biological/biochemical activities of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein having SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, 5 SEQ ID NO:12, or SEQ ID NO:14, respectively, such as the ability to bind ligands. Other biological activities of the subject ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins are described herein or will be reasonably apparent to those skilled in the art. According to the present invention, a peptide or polypeptide has biological activity if it is a 10 specific agonist or antagonist of a naturally-occurring form of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein.

Assays for determining whether a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein or variant thereof, has one or more biological activities are well known in the art.

15 Other preferred proteins of the invention are those encoded by the nucleic acids set forth in the section pertaining to nucleic acids of the invention. In particular, the invention provides fusion proteins, *e.g.*, ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2-immunoglobulin fusion proteins. Such fusion proteins can provide, *e.g.*, enhanced stability and solubility of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins and may 20 thus be useful in therapy. Fusion proteins can also be used to produce an immunogenic fragment of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein. For example, the VP6 capsid protein of rotavirus can be used as an immunologic carrier protein for portions of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide, either in the monomeric form or in the form of a viral particle. The nucleic acid sequences 25 corresponding to the portion of a subject ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein to which antibodies are to be raised can be incorporated into a fusion gene construct which includes coding sequences for a late vaccinia virus structural protein to produce a set of recombinant viruses expressing fusion proteins comprising ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 epitopes as part of the virion. It has been

demonstrated with the use of immunogenic fusion proteins utilizing the Hepatitis B surface antigen fusion proteins that recombinant Hepatitis B virions can be utilized in this role as well. Similarly, chimeric constructs coding for fusion proteins containing a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein and the poliovirus capsid
5 protein can be created to enhance immunogenicity of the set of polypeptide antigens (see, for example, EP Publication No: 0259149; and Evans *et al.* (1989) *Nature* 339:385; Huang *et al.* (1988) *J. Virol.* 62:3855; and Schlienger *et al.* (1992) *J. Virol.* 66:2).

The Multiple antigen peptide system for peptide-based immunization can also be utilized to generate an immunogen, wherein a desired portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB,
10 F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide is obtained directly from organo-chemical synthesis of the peptide onto an oligomeric branching lysine core (see, for example, Posnett *et al.* (1988) *JBC* 263:1719 and Nardelli *et al.* (1992) *J. Immunol.* 148:914). Antigenic determinants of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins can also be expressed and presented by bacterial cells.

Fusion proteins can also facilitate the expression of proteins including the ITGB3,
15 VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides of the present invention. For example, ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides can be generated as glutathione-S-transferase (GST-fusion) proteins. Such GST-fusion proteins can be easily purified, as for example by the use of glutathione-derivatized matrices (see, for
20 example, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, eds. Ausubel *et al.* (N.Y.: John Wiley & Sons, 1991)) and used subsequently to yield purified ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides.

The present invention further pertains to methods of producing the subject ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides. For example, a host cell
25 transfected with a nucleic acid vector directing expression of a nucleotide sequence encoding the subject polypeptides can be cultured under appropriate conditions to allow expression of the peptide to occur. Suitable media for cell culture are well known in the art. The recombinant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide can be isolated from cell culture medium, host cells, or both using techniques known in the art for

of the protein which are resistant to proteolytic cleavage, as for example, due to mutations which alter ubiquitination or other enzymatic targeting associated with the protein.

ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides may also be chemically modified to create ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 derivatives by forming covalent or aggregate conjugates with other chemical moieties, such as glycosyl groups, lipids, phosphate, acetyl groups and the like. Covalent derivatives of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins can be prepared by linking the chemical moieties to functional groups on amino acid side-chains of the protein or at the N-terminus or at the C-terminus of the polypeptide.

Modification of the structure of the subject ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides can be for such purposes as enhancing therapeutic or prophylactic efficacy, stability (*e.g.*, *ex vivo* shelf life and resistance to proteolytic degradation), or post-translational modifications (*e.g.*, to alter phosphorylation pattern of protein). Such modified peptides, when designed to retain at least one activity of the naturally-occurring form of the protein, or to produce specific antagonists thereof, are considered functional equivalents of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptides described in more detail herein. Such modified peptides can be produced, for instance, by amino acid substitution, deletion, or addition. The substitutional variant may be a substituted conserved amino acid or a substituted non-conserved amino acid.

For example, it is reasonable to expect that an isolated replacement of a leucine with an isoleucine or valine, an aspartate with a glutamate, a threonine with a serine, or a similar replacement of an amino acid with a structurally related amino acid (*i.e.*, isosteric and/or isoelectric mutations) will not have a major effect on the biological activity of the resulting molecule. Conservative replacements are those that take place within a family of amino acids that are related in their side chains. Genetically encoded amino acids can be divided into four families: (1) acidic = aspartate, glutamate; (2) basic = lysine, arginine, histidine; (3) nonpolar = alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan; and (4) uncharged polar = glycine, asparagine, glutamine, cysteine, serine, threonine, tyrosine. In

similar fashion, the amino acid repertoire can be grouped as (1) acidic = aspartate, glutamate; (2) basic = lysine, arginine histidine, (3) aliphatic = glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, serine, threonine, with serine and threonine optionally be grouped separately as aliphatic-hydroxyl; (4) aromatic = phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan; (5) amide =
5 asparagine, glutamine; and (6) sulfur -containing = cysteine and methionine. (see, for example, Biochemistry, 2nd ed., Ed. by L. Stryer, WH Freeman and Co.: 1981). Whether a change in the amino acid sequence of a peptide results in a functional ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 homolog (*e.g.*, functional in the sense that the resulting polypeptide mimics or antagonizes the wild-type form) can be readily determined
10 by assessing the ability of the variant peptide to produce a response in cells in a fashion similar to the wild-type protein, or competitively inhibit such a response. Polypeptides in which more than one replacement has taken place can readily be tested in the same manner.

Methods

15 The invention further provides predictive medicine methods, which are based, at least in part, on the discovery of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic regions which, when used in specific combinations, *e.g.*, combination 1 and combination 2, as described herein, are associated with specific physiological states and/or diseases or disorders, *e.g.*, vascular diseases or disorders such as CAD and MI. These
20 methods can be used alone, or in combination with other predictive medicine methods, including the identification and analysis of known risk factors associated with vascular disease, *e.g.*, phenotypic factors such as, for example, obesity, diabetes and family history.

For example, information obtained using the diagnostic assays described herein (singly or in combination with information of another genetic defect which contributes to the
25 same disease, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder) is useful for diagnosing or confirming that a subject has an allele of a polymorphic region which is associated with a particular disease or disorder, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder, or a combination of alleles which are associated with a particular disease or disorder, *e.g.*, the alleles of combination 1 or combination 2. Moreover, the information obtained using the diagnostic assays described

herein, singly or in combination with information of another genetic defect which contributes to the same disease, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder, can be used to predict whether or not a subject will benefit from further diagnostic evaluation for a vascular disease or disorder. Such further diagnostic evaluation includes, but is not limited to, cardiovascular imaging, such as angiography, cardiac ultrasound, coronary angiogram, magnetic resonance imagery, nuclear imaging, CT scan, myocardial perfusion imagery, or electrocardiogram, genetic analysis, *e.g.*, identification of additional polymorphisms *e.g.*, which contribute to the same disease, familial health history analysis, lifestyle analysis, or exercise stress tests, either alone or in combination. Furthermore, the diagnostic information obtained using the diagnostic assays described herein (singly or in combination with information of another genetic defect which contributes to the same disease, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder), may be used to identify which subject will benefit from a particular clinical course of therapy useful for preventing, treating, ameliorating, or prolonging onset of the particular vascular disease or disorder in the particular subject. Clinical courses of therapy include, but are not limited to, administration of medication, non-surgical intervention, surgical procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, laser angioplasty, implantation of a stent, coronary bypass grafting, implantation of a defibrillator, implantation of a pacemaker, and any combination thereof, and use of surgical and non-surgical medical devices used in the treatment of vascular disease, such as, for example, a defibrillator, a stent, a device used in coronary revascularization, a pacemaker, and any combination thereof. Medical devices may also be used in combination with a modulator of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene expression or ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polypeptide activity.

Alternatively, the information, singly, or, preferably, in combination with information of another genetic defect which contributes to the same disease, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder, can be used prognostically for predicting whether a non-symptomatic subject is likely to develop a disease or condition which is associated with one or more specific alleles of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic regions in a subject. Based on the prognostic information, a health care provider can

recommend a particular further diagnostic evaluation which will benefit the subject, or a particular clinical course of therapy, as described above.

In addition, knowledge of the identity of a particular ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele in a subject (the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic profile), preferably, in combination 1 or combination 2 as described herein, allows customization of further diagnostic evaluation and/or a clinical course of therapy for a particular disease. For example, a subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic profile or the genetic profile of a disease or disorder associated with a specific allele of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or disorder, can enable a health care provider: 1) to more efficiently and cost-effectively identify means for further diagnostic evaluation, including, but not limited to, further genetic analysis, familial health history analysis, or use of vascular imaging devices or procedures; 2) to more effectively prescribe a drug that will address the molecular basis of the disease or condition; 3) to more efficiently and cost-effectively identify an appropriate clinical course of therapy, including, but not limited to, lifestyle changes, medications, surgical or non-surgical medical devices, surgical or non-surgical intervention or procedures, or any combination thereof; and 4) to better determine the appropriate dosage of a particular drug or duration of a particular course of clinical therapy. For example, the expression level of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins, alone or in conjunction with the expression level of other genes known to contribute to the same disease, can be measured in many subjects at various stages of the disease to generate a transcriptional or expression profile of the disease. Expression patterns of individual subjects can then be compared to the expression profile of the disease to determine the appropriate drug, dose to administer to the subject, or course of clinical therapy.

The ability to target populations expected to show the highest clinical benefit, based on the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 or disease genetic profile, can enable: 1) the repositioning of marketed drugs, medical devices and surgical procedures for use in treating, preventing, or ameliorating vascular diseases or disorders, or diagnostics,

such as vascular imaging devices or procedures, with disappointing market results; 2) the rescue of drug candidates whose clinical development has been discontinued as a result of safety or efficacy limitations, which are subject subgroup-specific; 3) an accelerated and less costly development for drug candidates and more optimal drug labeling (*e.g.*, since the use of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 as a marker is useful for
5 optimizing effective dose); and 4) an accelerated, less costly, and more effective selection of a particular course of clinical therapy suited to a particular subject.

These and other methods are described in further detail in the following sections.

10 A. Prognostic and Diagnostic Assays

The present methods provide means for determining if a subject has or is or is not at risk of developing a disease, condition or disorder that is associated a specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele or combinations thereof, *e.g.*, a vascular disease or a disease or disorder resulting therefrom.

15 The present invention provides methods for determining the molecular structure of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, such as a human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, or a portion thereof. In one embodiment, determining the molecular structure of at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene comprises determining the identity of the allelic variant of at
20 least one polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene (determining the presence or absence of one or more of the allelic variants, or their complements, of SEQ ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and/or 21). In a preferred embodiment, the presence or absence of all of the alleles of combination 1 and/or combination 2, as described herein, are determined. A polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,
25 SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene can be located in an exon, an intron, at an intron/exon border, or in the 5' upstream regulatory element of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene.

The invention provides methods for determining whether a subject has or is at risk of developing, a disease or disorder associated with a specific allelic variant of a polymorphic

20 In one embodiment, any of a variety of sequencing reactions known in the art can be used to directly sequence at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene and detect allelic variants, *e.g.*, mutations, by comparing the sequence of the sample sequence with the corresponding reference (control) sequence. Exemplary sequencing reactions include those based on techniques developed by Maxam and Gilbert
25 (*Proc. Natl Acad Sci USA* (1977) 74:560) or Sanger (Sanger *et al* (1977) *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci* 74:5463). It is also contemplated that any of a variety of automated sequencing procedures may be utilized when performing the subject assays (*Biotechniques* (1995) 19:448), including sequencing by mass spectrometry (see, for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,547,835 and international patent application Publication Number WO 94/16101, entitled *DNA Sequencing*

by *Mass Spectrometry* by H. Köster; U.S. Patent No. 5,547,835 and international patent application Publication Number WO 94/21822 entitled "DNA Sequencing by Mass Spectrometry Via Exonuclease Dcgradation" by H. Köster), and U.S Patent No.5,605,798 and International Patent Application No. PCT/US96/03651 entitled *DNA Diagnostics Based*
5 *on Mass Spectrometry* by H. Köster; Cohen *et al.* (1996) *Adv Chromatogr* 36:127-162; and Griffin *et al.* (1993) *Appl Biochem Biotechnol* 38:147-159). It will be evident to one skilled in the art that, for certain embodiments, the occurrence of only one, two or three of the nucleic acid bases need be determined in the sequencing reaction. For instance, A-track or the like, *e.g.*, where only one nucleotide is detected, can be carried out.

10 Yet other sequencing methods are disclosed, *e.g.*, in U.S. Patent No. 5,580,732 entitled "Method of DNA sequencing employing a mixed DNA-polymer chain probe" and U.S. Patent No. 5,571,676 entitled "Method for mismatch-directed *in vitro* DNA sequencing".

In some cases, the presence of a specific allele of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,
15 SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene in DNA from a subject can be shown by restriction enzyme analysis. For example, a specific nucleotide polymorphism can result in a nucleotide sequence comprising a restriction site which is absent from the nucleotide sequence of another allelic variant.

In a further embodiment, protection from cleavage agents (such as a nuclease,
20 hydroxylamine or osmium tetroxide and with piperidine) can be used to detect mismatched bases in RNA/RNA DNA/DNA, or RNA/DNA heteroduplexes (Myers, *et al.* (1985) *Science* 230:1242). In general, the technique of "mismatch cleavage" starts by providing heteroduplexes formed by hybridizing a control nucleic acid, which is optionally labeled, *e.g.*, RNA or DNA, comprising a nucleotide sequence of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,
25 SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allelic variant with a sample nucleic acid, *e.g.*, RNA or DNA, obtained from a tissue sample. The double-stranded duplexes are treated with an agent which cleaves single-stranded regions of the duplex such as duplexes formed based on basepair mismatches between the control and sample strands. For instance, RNA/DNA duplexes can be treated with RNase and DNA/DNA hybrids treated with S1 nuclease to

enzymatically digest the mismatched regions. In other embodiments, either DNA/DNA or RNA/DNA duplexes can be treated with hydroxylamine or osmium tetroxide and with piperidine in order to digest mismatched regions. After digestion of the mismatched regions, the resulting material is then separated by size on denaturing polyacrylamide gels to
5 determine whether the control and sample nucleic acids have an identical nucleotide sequence or in which nucleotides they are different. See, for example, Cotton *et al* (1988) *Proc. Natl Acad Sci USA* 85:4397; Saleeba *et al* (1992) *Methods Enzymol.* 217:286-295. In a preferred embodiment, the control or sample nucleic acid is labeled for detection.

In another embodiment, an allelic variant can be identified by denaturing high-
10 performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC) (Oefner and Underhill, (1995) *Am. J. Human Gen.* 57:Suppl. A266). DHPLC uses reverse-phase ion-pairing chromatography to detect the heteroduplexes that are generated during amplification of PCR fragments from individuals who are heterozygous at a particular nucleotide locus within that fragment (Oefner and Underhill (1995) *Am. J. Human Gen.* 57:Suppl. A266). In general, PCR products are
15 produced using PCR primers flanking the DNA of interest. DHPLC analysis is carried out and the resulting chromatograms are analyzed to identify base pair alterations or deletions based on specific chromatographic profiles (see O'Donovan *et al.* (1998) *Genomics* 52:44-49).

In other embodiments, alterations in electrophoretic mobility is used to identify the
20 type of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allelic variant. For example, single strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP) may be used to detect differences in electrophoretic mobility between mutant and wild type nucleic acids (Orita *et al.* (1989) *Proc Natl. Acad. Sci USA* 86:2766, see also Cotton (1993) *Mutat Res* 285:125-144; and Hayashi (1992) *Genet Anal Tech Appl* 9:73-79). Single-stranded DNA fragments of sample and
25 control nucleic acids are denatured and allowed to renature. The secondary structure of single-stranded nucleic acids varies according to sequence, the resulting alteration in electrophoretic mobility enables the detection of even a single base change. The DNA fragments may be labeled or detected with labeled probes. The sensitivity of the assay may be enhanced by using RNA (rather than DNA), in which the secondary structure is more

sensitive to a change in sequence. In another preferred embodiment, the subject method utilizes heteroduplex analysis to separate double stranded heteroduplex molecules on the basis of changes in electrophoretic mobility (Keen *et al.* (1991) *Trends Genet* 7:5).

5 In yet another embodiment, the identity of an allelic variant of a polymorphic region is obtained by analyzing the movement of a nucleic acid comprising the polymorphic region in polyacrylamide gels containing a gradient of denaturant is assayed using denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) (Myers *et al.* (1985) *Nature* 313:495). When DGGE is used as the method of analysis, DNA will be modified to insure that it does not completely denature, for example by adding a GC clamp of approximately 40 bp of high-melting GC-
10 rich DNA by PCR. In a further embodiment, a temperature gradient is used in place of a denaturing agent gradient to identify differences in the mobility of control and sample DNA (Rosenbaum and Reissner (1987) *Biophys Chem* 265:1275).

Examples of techniques for detecting differences of at least one nucleotide between 2 nucleic acids include, but are not limited to, selective oligonucleotide hybridization,
15 selective amplification, or selective primer extension. For example, oligonucleotide probes may be prepared in which the known polymorphic nucleotide is placed centrally (allele-specific probes) and then hybridized to target DNA under conditions which permit hybridization only if a perfect match is found (Saiki *et al.* (1986) *Nature* 324:163); Saiki *et al* (1989) *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci USA* 86:6230; and Wallace *et al.* (1979) *Nucl. Acids Res.*
20 6:3543). Such allele specific oligonucleotide hybridization techniques may be used for the simultaneous detection of several nucleotide changes in different polymorphic regions of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2. For example, oligonucleotides having nucleotide sequences of specific allelic variants are attached to a hybridizing membrane and this membrane is then hybridized with labeled sample nucleic acid. Analysis
25 of the hybridization signal will then reveal the identity of the nucleotides of the sample nucleic acid.

Alternatively, allele specific amplification technology which depends on selective PCR amplification may be used in conjunction with the instant invention. Oligonucleotides used as primers for specific amplification may carry the allelic variant of interest in the

An alternative method, known as Genetic Bit Analysis or GBA™ is described by Goelet, P. *et al.* (PCT Application No. 92/15712). The method of Goelet, P. *et al.* uses mixtures of labeled terminators and a primer that is complementary to the sequence 3' to a polymorphic site. The labeled terminator that is incorporated is thus determined by, and
5 complementary to, the nucleotide present in the polymorphic site of the target molecule being evaluated. In contrast to the method of Cohen *et al.* (French Patent 2,650,840; PCT Appln. No. WO91/02087) the method of Goelet, P. *et al.* is preferably a heterogeneous phase assay, in which the primer or the target molecule is immobilized to a solid phase.

Recently, several primer-guided nucleotide incorporation procedures for assaying
10 polymorphic sites in DNA have been described (Komher, J. S. *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 17:7779-7784 (1989); Sokolov, B. P., *Nucl. Acids Res.* 18:3671 (1990); Syvanen, A. -C., *et al.*, *Genomics* 8:684-692 (1990); Kuppuswamy, M. N. *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:1143-1147 (1991); Prezant, T. R. *et al.*, *Hum. Mutat.* 1:159-164 (1992); Ugozzoli, L. *et al.*, *GATA* 9:107-112 (1992); Nyren, P. *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 208:171-175 (1993)). These
15 methods differ from GBA™ in that they all rely on the incorporation of labeled deoxynucleotides to discriminate between bases at a polymorphic site. In such a format, since the signal is proportional to the number of deoxynucleotides incorporated, polymorphisms that occur in runs of the same nucleotide can result in signals that are proportional to the length of the run (Syvanen, A. -C., *et al.*, *Amer.J. Hum. Genet.* 52:46-59
20 (1993)).

For determining the identity of the allelic variant of a polymorphic region located in the coding region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, yet other methods than those described above can be used. For example, identification of an allelic variant which encodes a mutated ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2
25 protein can be performed by using an antibody specifically recognizing the mutant protein in, *e.g.*, immunohistochemistry or immunoprecipitation. Antibodies to wild-type ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins are available from, for example, Research Diagnostics, Inc®, Flanders, New Jersey. Other antibodies to wild-type ITGB3, VWF,

which is bound to the antibody will react with an appropriate substrate, preferably a chromogenic substrate, in such a manner as to produce a chemical moiety which can be detected, for example, by spectrophotometric, fluorimetric or by visual means. Enzymes which can be used to detectably label the antibody include, but are not limited to, malate
5 dehydrogenase, staphylococcal nuclease, delta-5-steroid isomerase, yeast alcohol dehydrogenase, alpha-glycerophosphate dehydrogenase, triose phosphate isomerase, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, asparaginase, glucose oxidase, beta-galactosidase, ribonuclease, urease, catalase, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, glucoamylase and acetylcholinesterase. The detection can be accomplished by colorimetric
10 methods which employ a chromogenic substrate for the enzyme. Detection may also be accomplished by visual comparison of the extent of enzymatic reaction of a substrate in comparison with similarly prepared standards.

Detection may also be accomplished using any of a variety of other immunoassays. For example, by radioactively labeling the antibodies or antibody fragments, it is possible to
15 detect fingerprint gene wild type or mutant peptides through the use of a radioimmunoassay (RIA) (see, for example, Weintraub, B., *Principles of Radioimmunoassays*, Seventh Training Course on Radioligand Assay Techniques, The Endocrine Society, March, 1986, which is incorporated by reference herein). The radioactive isotope can be detected by such means as the use of a gamma counter or a scintillation counter or by autoradiography.

20 It is also possible to label the antibody with a fluorescent compound. When the fluorescently labeled antibody is exposed to light of the proper wave length, its presence can then be detected due to fluorescence. Among the most commonly used fluorescent labeling compounds are fluorescein isothiocyanate, rhodamine, phycoerythrin, phycocyanin, allophycocyanin, o-phthaldehyde and fluorescamine.

25 The antibody can also be detectably labeled using fluorescence emitting metals such as ^{152}Eu , or others of the lanthanide series. These metals can be attached to the antibody using such metal chelating groups as diethylenetriaminepentacetic acid (DTPA) or ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA).

The antibody also can be detectably labeled by coupling it to a chemiluminescent compound. The presence of the chemiluminescent-tagged antibody is then determined by detecting the presence of luminescence that arises during the course of a chemical reaction. Examples of particularly useful chemiluminescent labeling compounds are luminol,
5 isoluminol, thionin acridinium ester, imidazole, acridinium salt and oxalate ester.

Likewise, a bioluminescent compound may be used to label the antibody of the present invention. Bioluminescence is a type of chemiluminescence found in biological systems in, which a catalytic protein increases the efficiency of the chemiluminescent reaction. The presence of a bioluminescent protein is determined by detecting the presence
10 of luminescence. Important bioluminescent compounds for purposes of labeling are luciferin, luciferase and aequorin.

If a polymorphic region is located in an exon, either in a coding or non-coding portion of the gene, the identity of the allelic variant can be determined by determining the molecular structure of the mRNA, pre-mRNA, or cDNA. The molecular structure can be
15 determined using any of the above described methods for determining the molecular structure of the genomic DNA, *e.g.*, see Example 1.

The methods described herein may be performed, for example, by utilizing pre-packaged diagnostic kits, such as those described above, comprising at least one probe or primer nucleic acid described herein, which may be conveniently used, *e.g.*, to determine
20 whether a subject has or is at risk of developing a disease associated with a specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allelic variant.

Sample nucleic acid to be analyzed by any of the above-described diagnostic and prognostic methods can be obtained from any cell type or tissue of a subject. For example, a subject's bodily fluid (*e.g.* blood) can be obtained by known techniques (*e.g.* venipuncture).
25 Alternatively, nucleic acid tests can be performed on dry samples (*e.g.* hair or skin). Fetal nucleic acid samples can be obtained from maternal blood as described in International Patent Application No. WO91/07660 to Bianchi. Alternatively, amniocytes or chorionic villi may be obtained for performing prenatal testing.

Diagnostic procedures may also be performed *in situ* directly upon tissue sections (fixed and/or frozen) of subject tissue obtained from biopsies or resections, such that no nucleic acid purification is necessary. Nucleic acid reagents may be used as probes and/or primers for such *in situ* procedures (see, for example, Nuovo, G.J., 1992, PCR *in situ* hybridization: protocols and applications, Raven Press, NY).

In addition to methods which focus primarily on the detection of one nucleic acid sequence, profiles may also be assessed in such detection schemes. Fingerprint profiles may be generated, for example, by utilizing a differential display procedure, Northern analysis and/or RT-PCR.

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B. Pharmacogenomics

Knowledge of the identity of the allele of one or more ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene polymorphic regions in a subject (the more ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile), alone or in conjunction with information of other genetic defects associated with the same disease (the genetic profile of the particular disease) also allows selection and customization of the therapy, *e.g.*, a particular clinical course of therapy and/or further diagnostic evaluation for a particular disease to the subject's genetic profile. For example, subjects having a specific allele of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, or preferably in combination, *e.g.*, combination 1 or combination 2 as described herein may or may not exhibit symptoms of a particular disease or be predisposed to developing symptoms of a particular disease. Further, if those subjects are symptomatic, they may or may not respond to a certain drug, *e.g.*, a specific therapeutic used in the treatment or prevention of a vascular disease or disorder, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, such as beta blocker drugs, calcium channel blocker drugs, or nitrate drugs, but may respond to another. Furthermore, they may or may not respond to other treatments, including, for example, use of medical devices for treatment of vascular disease, or surgical and/or non-surgical courses of treatment. Moreover, if a subject does or does not exhibit symptoms of a particular disease, the subject may or may not benefit from further diagnostic evaluation, including, for example, use of vascular imaging devices or

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procedures. Thus, generation of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic profile, (*e.g.*, categorization of alterations in ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes which are associated with the development of a particular disease), from a population of subjects, who are symptomatic for a disease or condition that is caused
5 by or contributed to by a defective and/or deficient ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene and/or protein (a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic population profile) and comparison of a subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 profile to the population profile, permits the selection or design of drugs that are expected to be safe and efficacious for a particular subject or subject
10 population (*i.e.*, a group of subjects having the same genetic alteration), as well as the selection or design of a particular clinical course of therapy or further diagnostic evaluations that are expected to be safe and efficacious for a particular subject or subject population.

For example, a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 population profile can be performed by determining the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or
15 THBS2 profile, *e.g.*, the identity of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles, in a subject population having a disease, which is associated with one or more specific alleles of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic regions. Optionally, the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 population profile can further include information relating to the response of the population to a ITGB3,
20 VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic, using any of a variety of methods, including, monitoring: 1) the severity of symptoms associated with the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 related disease; 2) ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene expression level; 3) ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 mRNA level; and/or 4) ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or
25 THBS2 protein level, and dividing or categorizing the population based on particular ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles. The ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic population profile can also, optionally, indicate those particular ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles which are present in subjects that are either responsive or non-responsive to a particular therapeutic, clinical

course of therapy, or diagnostic evaluation. This information or population profile, is then useful for predicting which individuals should respond to particular drugs, particular clinical courses of therapy, or diagnostic evaluations based on their individual ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genetic profile.

5 In a preferred embodiment, the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 profile is a transcriptional or expression level profile and is comprised of determining the expression level of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 proteins, alone or in conjunction with the expression level of other genes known to contribute to the same disease at various stages of the disease.

10 Pharmacogenomic studies can also be performed using transgenic animals. For example, one can produce transgenic mice, *e.g.*, as described herein, which contain a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. These mice can be created, *e.g.*, by replacing their wild-type ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene with an allele of the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or
15 THBS2 gene. The response of these mice to specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 particular therapeutics, clinical courses of treatment, and/or diagnostic evaluations can then be determined.

(i) Diagnostic Evaluation

20 In one embodiment, the polymorphisms of the present invention are used to determine the most appropriate diagnostic evaluation and to determine whether or not a subject will benefit from further diagnostic evaluation. For example, if a subject has the specific alleles present in combination 1 or combination 2, as described herein, that subject is more likely to have or to be at a higher than normal risk of developing a vascular disease
25 such as CAD or MI.

Thus, in one embodiment, the invention provides methods for classifying a subject who has, or is at risk for developing, a vascular disease or disorder as a candidate for further diagnostic evaluation for a vascular disease or disorder comprising the steps of determining the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile of the subject,

comparing the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic population profile, and classifying the subject based on the identified genetic profiles as a subject who is a candidate for further diagnostic evaluation for a vascular disease or disorder.

5 In a preferred embodiment, the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile is determined by identifying the nucleotide present at the nucleotide positions included in combination 1, *e.g.*, nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, nucleotide residue 75672 of the reference
10 sequence GI 12597038 of the EDNRB gene, and nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 of the THBS2 gene.

In another preferred embodiment, the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile is determined by identifying the nucleotide present at the nucleotide positions included in combination 2, *e.g.*, nucleotide residue 107078 of the
15 reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI
20 307505 in the THBS2 gene.

Methods of further diagnostic evaluation include use of vascular imaging devices or procedures such as, for example, angiography, cardiac ultrasound, coronary angiogram, magnetic resonance imagery, nuclear imaging, CT scan, myocardial perfusion imagery, or electrocardiogram, or may include genetic analysis, familial health history analysis, lifestyle
25 analysis, exercise stress tests, or any combination thereof.

In another embodiment, the invention provides methods for selecting an effective vascular imaging device as a diagnostic tool for a vascular disease or disorder comprising the steps of determining the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile of the subject; comparing the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or
30 THBS2 genetic profile to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2

genetic population profile; and selecting an effective vascular imaging device or procedure as a diagnostic tool for a vascular disease or disorder. In a preferred embodiment, the vascular imaging device is selected from the group consisting of angiography, cardiac ultrasound, coronary angiogram, magnetic resonance imagery, nuclear imaging, CT scan, myocardial
5 perfusion imagery, electrocardiogram, or any combination thereof.

(ii) Clinical Course of Therapy

In another aspect, the polymorphisms of the present invention are used to determine the most appropriate clinical course of therapy for a subject who has or is at risk of a vascular
10 disease or disorder, and will aid in the determination of whether the subject will benefit from such clinical course of therapy, as determined by identification of one, or preferably, both of the polymorphisms of the invention. If a subject has the specific alleles present in combination 1 or combination 2, as described herein, that subject is more likely to have or to be at a higher than normal risk of developing a vascular disease such as CAD or MI.

15 Thus, in one aspect, the invention relates to the SNPs identified as described herein, both singly and, preferably, in combination, as well as to the use of these SNPs, and others in these genes, particularly those nearby in linkage disequilibrium with these SNPs, both singly and, preferably, in combination, for prediction of a particular clinical course of therapy for a subject who has, or is at risk for developing, a vascular disease. In one embodiment, the
20 invention provides a method for determining whether a subject will benefit from a particular course of therapy by determining the presence of one, or preferably both, of the polymorphisms of the invention. For example, the determination of the polymorphisms of the invention, singly, or in combination, will aid in the determination of whether an individual will benefit from surgical revascularization and/or will benefit by the implantation
25 of a stent following surgical revascularization, and will aid in the determination of the likelihood of success or failure of a particular clinical course of therapy.

In one embodiment, the invention provides methods for classifying a subject who has, or is at risk for developing, a vascular disease or disorder as a candidate for a particular clinical course of therapy for a vascular disease or disorder comprising the steps of

An appropriate clinical course of therapy may include, for example, a lifestyle change, including, for example, a change in diet or environment. Other clinical courses of therapy include, but are not limited to, use of surgical procedures or medical devices. Surgical therapy or procedures for the treatment of vascular disorders, includes, for example, surgical revascularization, such as angioplasty, *e.g.*, percutaneous transluminal coronary balloon angioplasty (PTCA), or laser angioplasty, or coronary bypass grafting (CABG). Medical devices used in the treatment or prevention of vascular diseases or disorders, include, for example, devices used in angioplasty, such as balloon angioplasty or laser angioplasty, a device used in coronary revascularization, or a stent, a defibrillator, a pacemaker, or any combination thereof. Medical devices may also be used in combination with modulators of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene expression or ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 protein activity.

C. Monitoring Effects of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2
Therapeutics During Clinical Trials

The present invention provides a method for monitoring the effectiveness of treatment of a subject with an agent (*e.g.*, an agonist, antagonist, peptidomimetic, protein, peptide, nucleic acid, small molecule, or other drug candidate identified, *e.g.*, by the
5 screening assays described herein) comprising the steps of (i) obtaining a preadministration sample from a subject prior to administration of the agent; (ii) detecting the level of expression or activity of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, mRNA or gene in the preadministration sample; (iii) obtaining one or more post-
10 administration samples from the subject; (iv) detecting the level of expression or activity of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, mRNA or gene in the post-administration samples; (v) comparing the level of expression or activity of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, mRNA, or gene in the
15 preadministration sample with those of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, mRNA, or gene in the post administration sample or samples; and (vi) altering the administration of the agent to the subject accordingly. For example, increased administration of the agent may be desirable to increase the expression or activity of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 to higher levels than detected, *i.e.*, to increase the effectiveness of the agent. Alternatively, decreased administration of the agent may be
20 desirable to decrease expression or activity of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 to lower levels than detected, *i.e.*, to decrease the effectiveness of the agent.

Cells of a subject may also be obtained before and after administration of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic to detect the level of expression of genes other than ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, to verify that the
25 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic does not increase or decrease the expression of genes which could be deleterious. This can be done, *e.g.*, by using the method of transcriptional profiling. Thus, mRNA from cells exposed *in vivo* to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic and mRNA from the same type of cells that were not exposed to the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2

therapeutic could be reverse transcribed and hybridized to a chip containing DNA from numerous genes, to thereby compare the expression of genes in cells treated and not treated with a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic. If, for example a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic turns on the expression of
5 a proto-oncogene in a subject, use of this particular ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 therapeutic may be undesirable.

D. Methods of Treatment

The present invention provides for both prophylactic and therapeutic methods of
10 treating a subject having or likely to develop a disorder associated with specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles and/or aberrant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 expression or activity, *e.g.*, vascular diseases or disorders.

15 i) Prophylactic Methods

In one aspect, the invention provides a method for preventing a disease or disorder associated with a specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele such as a vascular disease or disorder, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, and medical conditions resulting therefrom, by administering to the subject an agent which counteracts the unfavorable
20 biological effect of the specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele. Subjects at risk for such a disease can be identified by a diagnostic or prognostic assay, *e.g.*, as described herein. Administration of a prophylactic agent can occur prior to the manifestation of symptoms associated with specific ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles, such that a disease or disorder is prevented or, alternatively,
25 delayed in its progression. Depending on the identity of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 allele in a subject, a compound that counteracts the effect of this allele is administered. The compound can be a compound modulating the activity of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2, *e.g.*, a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 inhibitor. The treatment can also be a specific lifestyle change, *e.g.*, a

change in diet or an environmental alteration. In particular, the treatment can be undertaken prophylactically, before any other symptoms are present. Such a prophylactic treatment could thus prevent the development of aberrant vascular activity, *e.g.*, the production of atherosclerotic plaque leading to, *e.g.*, CAD or MI. The prophylactic methods are similar to
5 therapeutic methods of the present invention and are further discussed in the following subsections.

(ii) Therapeutic Methods

The invention further provides methods of treating a subject having a disease or
10 disorder associated with a specific allelic variant of a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. Preferred diseases or disorders include vascular diseases and disorders, and disorders resulting therefrom (*e.g.*, such as, for example, atherosclerosis, CAD, MI, ischemia, stroke, peripheral vascular diseases, venous thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism).

15 In one embodiment, the method comprises (a) determining the identity of an allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, or preferably, the identities of all of the allelic variants of combination 1 and/or all of the allelic variants of combination 2; and (b) administering to the subject a compound that compensates for the effect of the specific allelic variant(s). The polymorphic region can be localized at any
20 location of the gene, *e.g.*, in a regulatory element (*e.g.*, in a 5' upstream regulatory element), in an exon, (*e.g.*, coding region of an exon), in an intron, or at an exon/intron border. Thus, depending on the site of the polymorphism in the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, a subject having a specific variant of the polymorphic region which is associated with a specific disease or condition, can be treated with compounds
25 which specifically compensate for the effect of the allelic variant.

In a preferred embodiment, the identity of the nucleotides present at the nucleotide positions included in combination 1 is determined, *e.g.*, nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, nucleotide residue 75672 of the reference

sequence GI 12597038 of the EDNRB gene, and nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 of the THBS2 gene.

In another preferred embodiment, the identity of the nucleotides present at the nucleotide positions included in combination 2 is determined, *e.g.*, nucleotide residue 107078
5 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI
10 307505 in the THBS2 gene.

If a subject has two copies of an A at residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 of the ITGB3 gene, in combination with two copies of a T at residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 of the VWF gene, one copy of a T and one copy of a C at residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 of the EDNRB gene, and one copy of
15 a G and one copy of a T at residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 of the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof, that subject is at a higher than normal risk of developing a vascular disease such as CAD or MI.

Likewise, a subject having two copies of an A at nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, in combination with two copies of a C
20 at nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, two copies of an A at nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, two copies of a T at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, two copies of a T at nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and one copy of a G and one copy of a T at nucleotide residue
25 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 in the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof, is more likely to have or to be at a higher than normal risk of developing a vascular disease such as CAD or MI.

A mutation can be a substitution, deletion, and/or addition of at least one nucleotide relative to the wild-type allele (*i.e.*, the reference sequence). Depending on where the

mutation is located in the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, the subject can be treated to specifically compensate for the mutation. For example, if the mutation is present in the coding region of the gene and results in a more active ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, the subject can be treated, *e.g.*, by
5 administration to the subject of a medication or course of clinical treatment which treat, prevents, or ameliorates a vascular disease or disorder. Normal ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein can also be used to counteract or compensate for the endogenous mutated form of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein. Normal ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein can be
10 directly delivered to the subject or indirectly by gene therapy wherein some cells in the subject are transformed or transfected with an expression construct encoding wild-type ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein. Nucleic acids encoding reference human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein are set forth in SEQ ID NOs.:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 respectively.

15 Yet in another embodiment, the invention provides methods for treating a subject having a mutated ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, in which the mutation is located in a regulatory region of the gene. Such a regulatory region can be localized in the 5' upstream regulatory element of the gene, in the 5' or 3' untranslated region of an exon, or in an intron. A mutation in a regulatory region can result in increased
20 production of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, decreased production of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein, or production of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 having an aberrant tissue distribution. The effect of a mutation in a regulatory region upon the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein can be determined, *e.g.*, by measuring the
25 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein level or mRNA level in cells having a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene having this mutation and which, normally (*i.e.*, in the absence of the mutation) produce ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein. The effect of a mutation can also be determined *in vitro*. For example, if the mutation is in the 5' upstream regulatory element, a reporter

construct can be constructed which comprises the mutated 5' upstream regulatory element linked to a reporter gene, the construct transfected into cells, and comparison of the level of expression of the reporter gene under the control of the mutated 5' upstream regulatory element and under the control of a wild-type 5' upstream regulatory element. Such

5 experiments can also be carried out in mice transgenic for the mutated 5' upstream regulatory element. If the mutation is located in an intron, the effect of the mutation can be determined, *e.g.*, by producing transgenic animals in which the mutated ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene has been introduced and in which the wild-type gene may have been knocked out. Comparison of the level of expression of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB,

10 F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 in the mice transgenic for the mutant human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene with mice transgenic for a wild-type human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene will reveal whether the mutation results in increased, or decreased synthesis of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein and/or aberrant tissue distribution of ITGB3, VWF,

15 EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein. Such analysis could also be performed in cultured cells, in which the human mutant ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene is introduced and, *e.g.*, replaces the endogenous wild-type ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene in the cell. Thus, depending on the effect of the mutation in a regulatory region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or

20 THBS2 gene, a specific treatment can be administered to a subject having such a mutation. Accordingly, if the mutation results in increased ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein levels, the subject can be treated by administration of a compound which reduces ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 protein production, *e.g.*, by reducing ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene expression or a

25 compound which inhibits or reduces the activity of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2.

A correlation between drug responses and specific alleles of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 can be shown, for example, by clinical studies wherein the response to specific drugs of subjects having different allelic variants of a polymorphic

region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene is compared. Such studies can also be performed using animal models, such as mice having various alleles of human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 genes and in which, *c.g.*, the endogenous ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 has been inactivated
5 such as by a knock-out mutation. Test drugs are then administered to the mice having different human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 alleles and the response of the different mice to a specific compound is compared. Accordingly, the invention provides assays for identifying the drug which will be best suited for treating a specific disease or condition in a subject. For example, it will be possible to select drugs
10 which will be devoid of toxicity, or have the lowest level of toxicity possible for treating a subject having a disease or condition.

Other Uses For the Nucleic Acid Molecules of the Invention

The identification of different alleles of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1,
15 or THBS2 can also be useful for identifying an individual among other individuals from the same species. For example, DNA sequences can be used as a fingerprint for detection of different individuals within the same species (Thompson, J. S. and Thompson, eds., *Genetics in Medicine*, WB Saunders Co., Philadelphia, PA (1991)). This is useful, for example, in forensic studies and paternity testing, as described below.

20

A. Forensics

Determination of which specific allele occupies a set of one or more polymorphic sites in an individual identifies a set of polymorphic forms that distinguish the individual from others in the population. *See generally* National Research Council, *The Evaluation of*
25 *Forensic DNA Evidence* (Eds. Pollard *et al.*, National Academy Press, DC, 1996). The more polymorphic sites that are analyzed, the lower the probability that the set of polymorphic forms in one individual is the same as that in an unrelated individual. Preferably, if multiple sites are analyzed, the sites are unlinked. Thus, the polymorphisms of the invention can be used in conjunction with known polymorphisms in distal genes. Preferred polymorphisms

for use in forensics are biallelic because the population frequencies of two polymorphic forms can usually be determined with greater accuracy than those of multiple polymorphic forms at multi-allelic loci.

5 The capacity to identify a distinguishing or unique set of polymorphic markers in an individual is useful for forensic analysis. For example, one can determine whether a blood sample from a suspect matches a blood or other tissue sample from a crime scene by determining whether the set of polymorphic forms occupying selected polymorphic sites is the same in the suspect and the sample. If the set of polymorphic markers does not match between a suspect and a sample, it can be concluded (barring experimental error) that the
10 suspect was not the source of the sample. If the set of markers is the same in the sample as in the suspect, one can conclude that the DNA from the suspect is consistent with that found at the crime scene. If frequencies of the polymorphic forms at the loci tested have been determined (*e.g.*, by analysis of a suitable population of individuals), one can perform a statistical analysis to determine the probability that a match of suspect and crime scene
15 sample would occur by chance.

$p(ID)$ is the probability that two random individuals have the same polymorphic or allelic form at a given polymorphic site. For example, in biallelic loci, four genotypes are possible: AA, AB, BA, and BB. If alleles A and B occur in a haploid genome of the organism with frequencies x and y , the probability of each genotype in a diploid organism is
20 (see WO 95/12607):

$$\text{Homozygote: } p(AA) = x^2$$

$$\text{Homozygote: } p(BB) = y^2 = (1-x)^2$$

$$\text{Single Heterozygote: } p(AB) = p(BA) = xy = x(1-x)$$

$$\text{Both Heterozygotes: } p(AB+BA) = 2xy = 2x(1-x)$$

25

The probability of identity at one locus (*i.e.*, the probability that two individuals, picked at random from a population will have identical polymorphic forms at a given locus) is given by the equation: $p(ID) = (x^2)$.

These calculations can be extended for any number of polymorphic forms at a given

As set forth herein, the invention provides methods, *e.g.*, diagnostic and therapeutic methods, *e.g.*, for determining the type of allelic variant of a polymorphic region present in a
20 ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, such as a human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene. In preferred embodiments, the methods use probes or primers comprising nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene (SEQ
ID NOs:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21). In a preferred embodiment, the methods use probes
25 or primers comprising nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a polymorphic region of the genes included in combination 1, *e.g.*, a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, and a THBS2 gene. In another preferred embodiment, the methods use probes or primers comprising nucleotide sequences which are complementary to a polymorphic region of the genes included in combination 2, *e.g.*, a ITGB3, F2, SELP, VWF, THBS1, and a THBS2 gene.

Accordingly, the invention provides kits for performing these methods. In a preferred embodiment, the kit comprises probes or primers comprising nucleotide sequences which are complementary to the polymorphic region of the genes included in combination 1. In another preferred embodiment, the kit comprises nucleotide sequences which are complementary to the polymorphic region of the genes included in combination 2.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides a kit for determining whether a subject has or is at risk of developing a disease or condition associated with a specific allelic variant of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 polymorphic region. In an even more preferred embodiment, the disease or disorder is characterized by an abnormal ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity. In an even more preferred embodiment, the invention provides a kit for determining whether a subject has or is or is not at risk of developing a vascular disease, *e.g.*, atherosclerosis, CAD, MI, ischemia, stroke, peripheral vascular diseases, venous thromboembolism and pulmonary embolism.

A preferred kit provides reagents for determining whether a subject is likely to develop a vascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI.

Preferred kits comprise at least one probe or primer which is capable of specifically hybridizing under stringent conditions to a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 sequence or polymorphic region and instructions for use. The kits preferably comprise at least one of the above described nucleic acids. More preferably, the kits comprise all of the nucleic acids present in combination 1 and/or all of the nucleic acids present in combination 2. Preferred kits for amplifying at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene, comprise at least two primers, at least one of which is capable of hybridizing to an allelic variant sequence.

The kits of the invention can also comprise one or more control nucleic acids or reference nucleic acids, such as nucleic acids comprising a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 intronic sequence. For example, a kit can comprise primers for amplifying a polymorphic region of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene and a control DNA corresponding to such an amplified DNA and having the nucleotide sequence of a specific allelic variant. Thus, direct comparison can be performed between the

DNA amplified from a subject and the DNA having the nucleotide sequence of a specific allelic variant. In one embodiment, the control nucleic acid comprises at least a portion of a ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 gene of an individual who does not have a vascular disease, or a disease or disorder associated with an aberrant ITGB3, VWF,
5 EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, or THBS2 activity.

Yet other kits of the invention comprise at least one reagent necessary to perform the assay. For example, the kit can comprise an enzyme. Alternatively the kit can comprise a buffer or any other necessary reagent.

10 D. Electronic Apparatus Readable Media and Arrays

Electronic apparatus readable media comprising polymorphisms of the present invention is also provided. As used herein, "electronic apparatus readable media" and "computer readable media," which are used interchangeably herein, refer to any suitable medium for storing, holding or containing data or information that can be read and accessed
15 directly by an electronic apparatus. Such media can include, but are not limited to: magnetic storage media, such as floppy discs, hard disc storage medium, and magnetic tape; optical storage media such as compact disc; electronic storage media such as RAM, ROM, EPROM, EEPROM and the like; general hard disks and hybrids of these categories such as magnetic/optical storage media. The medium is adapted or configured for having recorded
20 thereon a marker of the present invention.

As used herein, the term "electronic apparatus" is intended to include any suitable computing or processing apparatus or other device configured or adapted for storing data or information. Examples of electronic apparatus suitable for use with the present invention include stand-alone computing apparatus; networks, including a local area network (LAN), a
25 wide area network (WAN) Internet, Intranet, and Extranet; electronic appliances such as a personal digital assistants (PDAs), cellular phone, pager and the like; and local and distributed processing systems.

As used herein, "recorded" refers to a process for storing or encoding information on the electronic apparatus readable medium. Those skilled in the art can readily adopt any of

the presently known methods for recording information on known media to generate manufactures comprising the polymorphisms of the present invention.

A variety of software programs and formats can be used to store the polymorphisms information of the present invention on the electronic apparatus readable medium. For
5 example, the polymorphic sequence can be represented in a word processing text file, formatted in commercially-available software such as WordPerfect and MicroSoft Word, or represented in the form of an ASCII file, stored in a database application, such as DB2, Sybase, Oracle, or the like, as well as in other forms. Any number of data processor structuring formats (*e.g.*, text file or database) may be employed in order to obtain or create a
10 medium having recorded thereon the markers of the present invention.

By providing the polymorphisms of the invention in readable form, singly or in combination, one can routinely access the polymorphism information for a variety of purposes. For example, one skilled in the art can use the sequences of the polymorphisms of the present invention in readable form to compare a target sequence or target structural motif
15 with the sequence information stored within the data storage means. Search means are used to identify fragments or regions of the sequences of the invention which match a particular target sequence or target motif.

The present invention therefore provides a medium for holding instructions for performing a method for determining whether a subject has a vascular disease or a pre-
20 disposition to a vascular disease, wherein the method comprises the steps of determining the presence or absence of a polymorphism and based on the presence or absence of the polymorphism, determining whether the subject has a vascular disease or a pre-disposition to a vascular disease and/or recommending a particular clinical course of therapy or diagnostic evaluation for the vascular disease or pre-vascular disease condition.

25 The present invention further provides in an electronic system and/or in a network, a method for determining whether a subject has a vascular disease or a pre-disposition to vascular disease associated with a polymorphism as described herein wherein the method comprises the steps of determining the presence or absence of the polymorphism, and based on the presence or absence of the polymorphism, determining whether the subject has a

source of health care. The methods and systems provide personalized information including a personal health assessment report that can include a personalized molecular profile, *e.g.*, an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile, a health profile, or both. Overall, the methods and systems as described herein provide personalized information for individuals and patient management tools for healthcare providers and/or subjects using a variety of communications networks such as, for example, the Internet. U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/266,082, filed February 1, 2001, entitled “Methods and Systems for Personalized Health Assessment,” further describes personalized health assessment methods, systems, and apparatus, and is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

In one aspect, the invention provides an Internet-based method for assessing a subject's risk for vascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI. In one embodiment, the method comprises obtaining a biological sample from a subject, analyzing the biological sample to determine the presence or absence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2, and providing results of the analysis to the subject via the Internet, wherein the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 indicates an increased risk for vascular disease. In another embodiment, the method comprises analyzing data from a biological sample from a subject relating to the presence or absence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 and providing results of the analysis to the subject via the Internet, wherein the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 indicates an increased risk for vascular disease.

It will be appreciated that the phrase “wherein the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 indicates an increased risk for vascular disease” includes an increased or higher than normal risk of developing a vascular disease indicated by a subject having two copies of an adenine allele at residue 107078 of the ITGB3 gene, two copies of a thymidine allele at residue 55386 of the VWF gene, one copy of a thymidine allele and one copy of a cytidine allele, at residue 75672 of the EDNRB gene, and one copy of a guanine allele and one copy of a thymidine allele at residue 3949 of the

THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof (the specific alleles present in combination 1), or two copies of an adenine allele at nucleotide residue 107078 of the ITGB3 gene, two copies of a cytidine allele at nucleotide residue 10777 of the F2 gene, two copies of an adenine allele at nucleotide residue 76666 of the SELP gene, two copies of a thymidine allele at
5 nucleotide residue 55386 of the VWF gene, two copies of a thymidine allele at nucleotide residue 53502 of the THBS1 gene, and one copy of a guanine allele and one copy of a thymidine allele at nucleotide residue 3949 of the THBS2 gene, or the complements thereof (the specific alleles present in combination 2).

The terms "Internet" and/or "communications network" as used herein refer to any
10 suitable communication link, which permits electronic communications. It should be understood that these terms are not limited to "the Internet" or any other particular system or type of communication link. That is, the terms "Internet" and/or "communications network" refer to any suitable communication system, including extra-computer system and intra-computer system communications. Examples of such communication systems include
15 internal busses, local area networks, wide area networks, point-to-point shared and dedicated communications, infra-red links, microwave links, telephone links, CATV links, satellite and radio links, and fiber-optic links. The terms "Internet" and/or "communications network" can also refer to any suitable communications system for sending messages between remote locations, directly or via a third party communication provider such as AT&T. In this
20 instance, messages can be communicated via telephone or facsimile or computer synthesized voice telephone messages with or without voice or tone recognition, or any other suitable communications technique.

In another aspect, the methods of the invention also provide methods of assessing a subject's risk for vascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI. In one embodiment, the method
25 comprises obtaining information from the subject regarding the polymorphic region of an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, through *e.g.*, obtaining a biological sample from the individual, analyzing the sample to obtain the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile, representing the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile information as digital

In yet another aspect the invention provides a medical information system for assessing a subject's risk for vascular disease comprising a means for obtaining information from the subject regarding the polymorphic region of an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, through *e.g.*, obtaining a biological sample from the individual
25 to obtain an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile, a means for representing the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile as digital molecular data, a means for electronically processing the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 digital genetic profile to generate a risk assessment report for vascular disease, and a means for displaying the risk assessment report

on an output device, where the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 indicates an increased risk for vascular disease.

In another aspect, the invention provides a computerized method of providing medical advice to a subject comprising obtaining information from the subject regarding the polymorphic region of an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, through *e.g.*, obtaining a biological sample from the subject, analyzing the subject's biological sample to determine the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile, and, based on the subject's ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 genetic profile, determining the subject's risk for vascular disease. Medical advice may be then provided electronically to the subject, based on the subject's risk for vascular disease. The medical advice may comprise, for example, recommending one or more of the group consisting of: further diagnostic evaluation, use of medical or surgical devices, administration of medication, or lifestyle change. Additional health information may also be obtained from the subject and may also be used to provide the medical advice.

In another aspect, the invention includes a method for self-assessing risk for a vascular disease. The method comprises providing information from the subject regarding the polymorphic region of an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, through *e.g.*, providing a biological sample for genetic analysis, and accessing an electronic output device displaying results of the genetic analysis, thereby self-assessing risk for a vascular disease, where the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 indicates an increased risk for vascular disease.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of self-assessing risk for vascular disease comprising providing information from the subject regarding the polymorphic region of an ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 gene, through *e.g.*, providing a biological sample, accessing ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 digital genetic profile data obtained from the biological sample, the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2 digital genetic profile data being displayed via an output device, where the presence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2,

In still another aspect, the invention provides a method of assessing the health of an

individual. The method comprises obtaining health information from the individual using an input device (*e.g.*, a keyboard, touch screen, hand-held device, telephone, wireless input device, or interactive page on a website), representing at least some of the health information as digital health data, obtaining a biological sample from the individual, and processing the biological sample to obtain molecular information, where the molecular information comprises the presence or absence of a polymorphic region of ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and/or THBS2. At least some of the molecular information and health data is then presented as digital molecular data and electronically processed to generate a health assessment report. The health assessment report is then displayed on an output device. The health assessment report can comprise a digital health profile of the individual. The molecular data can comprise protein sequence data, and the molecular profile can comprise a proteomic profile. The molecular data can also comprise information regarding one or more of the absence, presence, or level, of one or more specific proteins, polypeptides, chemicals, cells, organisms, or compounds in the individual's biological sample. The molecular data may also comprise, *e.g.*, nucleic acid sequence data, and the molecular profile may comprise, *e.g.*, a genetic profile.

In yet another embodiment, the method of assessing the health of an individual further comprises obtaining a second biological sample or a second health information at a time after obtaining the initial biological sample or initial health information, processing the second biological sample to obtain second molecular information, processing the second health information, representing at least some of the second molecular information as digital second molecular data and second health information as digital health information, and processing the molecular data and second molecular data and health information and second health information to generate a health assessment report. In one embodiment, the health assessment report provides information about the individual's predisposition for vascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, and options for risk reduction.

Options for risk reduction comprise, for example, one or more of diet, exercise, one or more vitamins, one or more drugs, cessation of nicotine use, and cessation of alcohol use. wherein the health assessment report provides information about treatment options for a

particular disorder. Treatment options comprise, for example, one or more of diet, one or more drugs, physical therapy, and surgery. In one embodiment, the health assessment report provides information about the efficacy of a particular treatment regimen and options for therapy adjustment.

5 In another embodiment, electronically processing the digital molecular data and digital health data to generate a health assessment report comprises using the digital molecular data and/or digital health data as inputs for an algorithm or a rule-based system that determines whether the individual is at risk for a specific disorder, *e.g.*, a vascular disorder, such as CAD or MI. Electronically processing the digital molecular data and digital health data may also comprise using the digital molecular data and digital health data as inputs for an algorithm or a rule-based system based on one or more databases comprising stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data relating to one or more disorders, *e.g.*, vascular disorders, such as CAD or MI.

15 In another embodiment, processing the digital molecular data and digital health data comprises using the digital molecular data and digital health data as inputs for an algorithm or a rule-based system based on one or more databases comprising: (i) stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data from a plurality of healthy individuals, and (ii) stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data from one or more pluralities of unhealthy individuals, each plurality of individuals having a specific disorder. At least one of the databases can be a public database. In one embodiment, the digital health data and digital molecular data are transmitted via, *e.g.*, a communications network, *e.g.*, the Internet, to a medical information system for processing.

A database of stored molecular data and health data, *e.g.*, stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data, from a plurality of individuals, is further provided. A database of stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data from a plurality of healthy individuals, and stored digital molecular data and/or digital health data from one or more pluralities of unhealthy individuals, each plurality of individuals having a specific disorder, *e.g.*, a vascular disorder, is also provided.

The new methods and systems of the invention provide healthcare providers with

access to ever-growing relational databases that include both molecular data and health data that is linked to specific disorders, *e.g.*, vascular disorders. In addition public medical knowledge is screened and abstracted to provide concise, accurate information that is added to the database on an ongoing basis. In addition, new relationships between particular SNPs,
5 *e.g.*, SNPs associated with vascular disease, or genetic mutations and specific disorders are added as they are discovered.

The present invention is further illustrated by the following examples which should not be construed as limiting in any way. The contents of all cited references (including,
10 without limitation, literature references, issued patents, published patent applications and database records including Genbank™ records) as cited throughout this application are hereby expressly incorporated by reference. The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of cell biology, cell culture, molecular biology, transgenic biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology,
15 which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See, for example, *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Ed., ed. by Sambrook, Fritsch and Maniatis (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: 1989); *DNA Cloning*, Volumes I and II (D. N. Glover ed., 1985); *Oligonucleotide Synthesis* (M. J. Gait ed., 1984); Mullis *et al.* U.S. Patent No: 4,683,195; *Nucleic Acid Hybridization* (B. D. Hames & S. J. Higgins eds.
20 1984); *Transcription And Translation* (B. D. Hames & S. J. Higgins eds. 1984); *Culture Of Animal Cells* (R. I. Freshney, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1987); *Immobilized Cells And Enzymes* (IRL Press, 1986); B. Perbal, *A Practical Guide To Molecular Cloning* (1984); the treatise, *Methods In Enzymology* (Academic Press, Inc., N.Y.); *Gene Transfer Vectors For Mammalian Cells* (J. H. Miller and M. P. Calos eds., 1987, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory);
25 *Methods In Enzymology*, Vols. 154 and 155 (Wu *et al.* eds.), *Immunochemical Methods In Cell And Molecular Biology* (Mayer and Walker, eds., Academic Press, London, 1987); *Handbook Of Experimental Immunology*, Volumes I-IV (D. M. Weir and C. C. Blackwell, eds., 1986); *Manipulating the Mouse Embryo*, (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1986).

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Detection of polymorphic regions in the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2: variant allele discovery, validation, and genotyping

This example describes the detection of polymorphic regions in the human ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes through use of denaturing high performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC), variant detector arrays, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and direct sequencing.

Cell lines derived from an ethnically diverse population were obtained and used for single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) discovery by methods described in Cargill, *et al.* (1999) *Nature Genetics* 22:231-238.

Genomic sequence representing the coding and partial regulatory regions of genes were amplified by polymerase chain reaction and screened via two independent methods: denaturing high performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC) or variant detector arrays (Affymetrix™). DHPLC uses reverse-phase ion-pairing chromatography to detect the heteroduplexes that are generated during amplification of PCR fragments from individuals who are heterozygous at a particular nucleotide locus within that fragment (Oefner and Underhill (1995) *Am. J. Human Gen.* 57:Suppl. A266).

Generally, the analysis was carried out as described in O'Donovan *et al.* ((1998) *Genomics* 52:44-49). PCR products having product sizes ranging from about 150-400 bp were generated using the primers and PCR conditions described in Example 2. Two PCR reactions were pooled together for DHPLC analysis (4 ul of each reaction for a total of 8 ul per sample). DHPLC was performed on a DHPLC system purchased from Transgenomic, Inc. The gradient was created by mixing buffers A (0.1M TEAA) and B (0.1M TEAA, 25% Acetonitrile). WAVEmaker™ software was utilized to predict a melting temperature and calculate a buffer gradient for mutation analysis of a given DNA sequence. The resulting chromatograms were analyzed to identify base pair alterations or deletions based on specific chromatographic profiles.

Detection of polymorphic regions by SSCP

Genomic DNA was subjected to PCR in 25 µl reactions (1X PCR Amplitaq polymerase buffer, 0.1 mM dNTPs, 0.8 µM 5' primer, 0.8 µM 3' primer, 0.75 units of
5 Amplitaq polymerase, 50 ng genomic DNA) using each of the above described pairs of primers under the following cycle conditions: 94°C for 2 min, 35 x [94°C for 40 sec, 57°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min], 72°C 5 min, 4°C hold.

The amplified genomic DNA fragments were then analyzed by SSCP (Orita *et al.* (1989) *PNAS USA* 86:2766, see also Cotton (1993) *Mutat Res* 285:125-144; and Hayashi
10 (1992) *Genet Anal Tech Appl* 9:73-79). From each 25 µl PCR reaction, 3 µl was taken and added to 7 µl of loading buffer. The mixture was heated to 94°C for 5 min and then immediately cooled in a slurry of ice-water. 3-4 µl were then loaded on a 10% polyacrylamide gel either with 10% glycerol or without 10% glycerol, and then subjected to electrophoresis either overnight at 4 Watts at room temperature, overnight at 4 Watts at 4°C
15 (for amplifying a 5' upstream regulatory element), or for 5 hours at 20 Watts at 4°C. The secondary structure of single-stranded nucleic acids varies according to sequence, thus allowing the detection of small differences in nucleic acid sequence between similar nucleic acids. At the end of the electrophoretic period, the DNA was analyzed by gently overlaying a mixture of dyes onto the gel (1x the manufacturer's recommended concentration of SYBR
20 Green I™ and SYBR Green II™ in 0.5 X TBE buffer (Molecular Probes™)) for 5 min, followed by rinsing in distilled water and detection in a Fluoroimager 575™ (Molecular Dynamics™).

Direct sequencing of PCR products

25 To determine the sequences of the polymorphisms identified, the regions containing the polymorphisms were reamplified using flanking primers. The genomic DNA from the subject was subjected to PCR in 50 µl reactions (1x PCR Amplitaq polymerase buffer, 0.1 mM dNTPs, 0.8 µM 5' primer, 0.8 µM 3' primer, 0.75 units of Amplitaq polymerase, 50 ng genomic DNA) using each of the pairs of primers under the following cycle conditions: 94°C

for 2 min, 35 x [94°C for 40 sec, 57°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min], 72°C 5 min, 4°C hold. The newly amplified products were then purified using the Qiagen Qiaquick PCR purification kit according to the manufacturer's protocol, and subjected to sequencing using the aforementioned primers which were utilized for amplification.

5

Case Population and Associations

A total of 352 U.S. Caucasian subjects with premature coronary artery disease were identified in 15 participating medical centers, fulfilling the criteria of either myocardial infarction, surgical or percutaneous revascularization, or a significant coronary artery lesion (e.g., at least a 70% stenosis in a major epicardial artery) diagnosed before age 45 in men or age 50 in women and having a living sibling who met the same criteria. These cases were compared with a random sample of 418 Caucasian controls drawn from the general U.S. population in Atlanta, Georgia. Controls representing a general, unselected population were identified through random-digit dialing in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Subjects ranging in age from age 20 to age 70 were invited to participate in the study. The subjects answered a health questionnaire, had anthropometric measures taken, and blood drawn for measurement of serum markers and extraction of DNA.

Seven SNPs, one in each of the ITGB3, VWF, EDNRB, F2, SELP, THBS1, and THBS2 genes emerged as associated with CAD when identified in specific combinations of alleles, e.g., combination 1 and combination 2, as described herein. The results indicate that there is a change from an adenine (A) to a guanine (G) in the ITGB3 gene at residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 (polymorphism ID No. ITGB3u2). This polymorphism results in a change from a leucine to a proline in the amino acid sequence of ITGB3 (SEQ ID NO:2) at amino acid residue 59. A second polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a guanine (G) in the VWF gene at residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 (polymorphism ID No. G391u14). This polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the VWF gene (it is a "silent" variant). A third polymorphism is a change from a cytidine (C) to a thymidine (T) in the EDNRB gene at residue 75672 of the reference sequence GI 12597038 (polymorphism ID No. G337a4). This

polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the EDNBR gene. A fourth polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a guanine (G) in the THBS2 gene at residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 (polymorphism ID No. G5755e5). This polymorphism is not present in the coding sequence of the THBS2 gene, and therefore
5 does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the THBS2 gene (it is a “non-coding” variant in the 3’ region of the gene). A fifth polymorphism is a change from a cytidine (C) to a thymidine (T) in the F2 gene at residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 (polymorphism ID No. F2u1). This polymorphism results in a change from a threonine to a methionine in the amino acid sequence of F2 (SEQ ID NO:10) at amino acid
10 residue 165. A sixth polymorphism is a change from an adenine (A) to a cytidine (C) in the SELP gene at residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 (polymorphism ID No. SELPu8). This polymorphism results in a change from a threonine to a proline in the amino acid sequence of SELP (SEQ ID NO:12) at amino acid residue 567. A seventh
15 polymorphism is a change from a thymidine (T) to a cytidine (C) in the THBS1 gene at residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 (polymorphism ID No. G334u3). This polymorphism does not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the THBS1 gene (it is a “silent” variant) (see Table 1, below).

Table 1.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gene	PolyID	var freq	Type of var	Geno- types	Ref	Var	Genbank Accession/nt position	Flanking sequence	SEQ IDNO:
ITGB3	ITGB3u2	.16	Mis (L/P)	GG GA AA	A	G	GI:14589612/nt 107078	GTGAGCC CgGAGGC AGG	15
VWF	G391u14	.11	Silent	GG GT TT	T	G	GI:4827300/nt 55386	TTGGACT GgGCCTC GCT	16
EDNRB	G337a4	.40	Silent	TT TC CC	C	T	GI:12597038/nt 75672	AAGTGA AtAGCCAC CA	17
THBS2	G5755e5	.29	Non Coding (3')	GG GT TT	T	G	GI:307505/nt 3949	AATGGAA CgCAGAG ATG	18
F2	F2u1	.12	Mis (T/M)	TT TC CC	C	T	GI:558069/ nt 10777	CAGCACC AtGGGACC CT	20
SELP	SELPu8	.11	Mis (T/P)	CC CA AA	A	C	GI:3790157/ nt 76666	ACTGGTC AcCTACCG TG	21
THBS1	G334u3	.10	Silent	CC CT TT	T	C	GI:12583762/ nt 53502	CAGATGA AcGGGAAA CC	22

5

Example 2: Statistical Analysis

All analyses were done using the SAS statistical package (Version 8.0, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, N.C.). Differences between cases and controls were assessed with a chi-square statistic for categorical covariates and the Wilcoxon statistic for continuous covariates.

Association between each SNP and two outcomes, CAD and MI, was measured by

10 comparing genotype frequencies between controls and all CAD cases and the subset of cases with MI. Significance was determined using a continuity-adjusted chi-square or Fisher's exact test for each genotype compared to the homozygotes wild-type for that locus. Odds ratios were calculated and presented with 95% confidence intervals.

15 Genotype groups were pooled for subsequence analysis of the top loci. Pooling allows us to test the best model for each locus (dominant, codominant, or recessive). Models were chosen based on significant differences between genotypes within a locus. A recessive

As shown in Table 3, a second combination of six of the SNPs identified herein can be used to determine whether a subject is at an increased risk of developing a cardiovascular disease (referred to herein as “combination 2”). Combination 2 comprises “AA” at
25 nucleotide residue 107078 of the reference sequence GI 14589612 in the ITGB3 gene, “CC” at nucleotide residue 10777 of the reference sequence GI 558069 in the F2 gene, “AA” at nucleotide residue 76666 of the reference sequence GI 3790157 in the SELP gene, “TT” at nucleotide residue 55386 of the reference sequence GI 4827300 in the VWF gene, “TT” at

nucleotide residue 53502 of the reference sequence GI 12583762 in the THBS1 gene, and
 “GT” at nucleotide residue 3949 of the reference sequence GI 307505 in the THBS2 gene.
 When this combination is present in a subject, that subject is approximately four and a half
 times more likely to develop a cardiovascular disease, *e.g.*, CAD or MI, than individuals with
 5 any other combination of alleles at these loci, odds ratio: 4.591 [2.381,8.851] (see Table 3).

Equivalents

Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than
 routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the invention
 10 described herein. Such equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the following claims.